



# Yukon Legislative Assembly

---

Number 149

1st Session

33rd Legislature

---

## HANSARD

Tuesday, April 29, 2014 — 1:00 p.m.

Speaker: The Honourable David Laxton

# YUKON LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

**SPEAKER — Hon. David Laxton, MLA, Porter Creek Centre**

**DEPUTY SPEAKER — Patti McLeod, MLA, Watson Lake**

## CABINET MINISTERS

### NAME CONSTITUENCY PORTFOLIO

<b>Hon. Darrell Pasloski</b>	Mountainview	<b>Premier</b> Minister responsible for Finance; Executive Council Office
<b>Hon. Elaine Taylor</b>	Whitehorse West	Deputy Premier Minister responsible for Education; Women's Directorate; French Language Services Directorate
<b>Hon. Brad Cathers</b>	Lake Laberge	Minister responsible for Community Services; Yukon Housing Corporation; Yukon Liquor Corporation; Yukon Lottery Commission Government House Leader
<b>Hon. Doug Graham</b>	Porter Creek North	Minister responsible for Health and Social Services; Yukon Workers' Compensation Health and Safety Board
<b>Hon. Scott Kent</b>	Riverdale North	Minister responsible for Energy, Mines and Resources; Yukon Energy Corporation; Yukon Development Corporation
<b>Hon. Currie Dixon</b>	Copperbelt North	Minister responsible for Economic Development; Environment; Public Service Commission
<b>Hon. Wade Istchenko</b>	Kluane	Minister responsible for Highways and Public Works
<b>Hon. Mike Nixon</b>	Porter Creek South	Minister responsible for Justice; Tourism and Culture

## GOVERNMENT PRIVATE MEMBERS

### Yukon Party

<b>Darius Elias</b>	Vuntut Gwitchin
<b>Stacey Hassard</b>	Pelly-Nisutlin
<b>Hon. David Laxton</b>	Porter Creek Centre
<b>Patti McLeod</b>	Watson Lake

## OPPOSITION MEMBERS

### New Democratic Party

<b>Elizabeth Hanson</b>	Leader of the Official Opposition Whitehorse Centre
<b>Jan Stick</b>	Official Opposition House Leader Riverdale South
<b>Kevin Barr</b>	Mount Lorne-Southern Lakes
<b>Lois Moorcroft</b>	Copperbelt South
<b>Jim Tredger</b>	Mayo-Tatchun
<b>Kate White</b>	Takhini-Kopper King

### Liberal Party

<b>Sandy Silver</b>	Leader of the Third Party Klondike
---------------------	---------------------------------------

## LEGISLATIVE STAFF

Clerk of the Assembly	Floyd McCormick
Deputy Clerk	Linda Kolody
Clerk of Committees	Allison Lloyd
Sergeant-at-Arms	Rudy Couture
Deputy Sergeant-at-Arms	Doris McLean
Hansard Administrator	Deana Lemke

**Yukon Legislative Assembly  
Whitehorse, Yukon  
Tuesday, April 29, 2014 — 1:00 p.m.**

**Speaker:** I will now call the House to order. We will proceed at this time with prayers.

*Prayers*

**Withdrawal of motions**

**Speaker:** The Chair wishes to inform the House that Motion No. 660, notice of which was given yesterday by the Leader of the Third Party, has not been placed on today's Notice Paper as the motion is now outdated.

**DAILY ROUTINE**

**Speaker:** We will proceed at this time with the Order Paper.

Tributes.

**TRIBUTES**

**In recognition of the Yukoners cancer care fund**

**Hon. Mr. Graham:** It's indeed my pleasure today to rise on behalf of all members of the Legislature as this is nearing the last day in Cancer Awareness Month and I would like to pay tribute to the Yukoners cancer care fund and all those who have worked to support it.

Cancer does not just affect the person afflicted but has a profound effect on the entire family. The Yukoners cancer care fund provides financial support to Yukoners fighting cancer and families caring for their loved ones. A year ago, Mr. Speaker, you hosted the first Speaker's reception and last Thursday, you hosted the second, making this an annual event to raise money for an extremely important fund.

I understand that through the live and silent auctions and cash donations, your event raised in excess of \$18,000 this year, adding to the success of the first year's event which raised over \$10,000. I would like to make a personal observation, Mr. Speaker, that it was very nice to see all members of the Legislature attend your event and participate so happily in raising money for the Yukoners cancer care fund.

Over the last year, the fund has also been supported by the Bob Park Charitable Golf Classic, Rent-a-Santa, and the Hank Karr Hootenanny.

During the reception, the Yukon Hospital Foundation, which administers the fund, reported that in spite of limited funds, they were able to assist five Yukon families within Whitehorse and the communities. So it's with great pride and appreciation that we all give tribute to the event organizers and volunteers, the businesses and individuals who contribute to the fundraisers and, most importantly, all the Yukoners who have generously given — in heart and cash — to assist Yukoners and their families during a very trying time in their lives.

**In recognition of Yukon School of Visual Arts graduates**

**Mr. Silver:** I rise today — with great pleasure — to pay tribute on behalf of the Liberal Party and the Official Opposition to the graduates of the Yukon School of Visual Arts. I was honoured to have been invited to speak at the graduation ceremony in Dawson on Friday. As the Member for Klondike, I know first-hand just how important SOVA is to the residents of Dawson. It was incredibly heartening to hear that some of the graduates are planning to stay on in Dawson and make it their home.

As members of the House know, I have been advocating on behalf of SOVA for the entirety of my appointment as a Member of the Legislative Assembly. Our artistic community is a precious defining character in Dawson, and it has a positive effect on our image — both on the national and the international stage. This contribution is not lost on me; it's not lost the students of Robert Service School, whose lives are enriched with programming through the visual arts school, and it's also not lost on the Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in who have been a partner with SOVA since its inception.

Showing their support for the ceremony, elder and mentor Clara Van Bibber did the opening prayer, executive director and fellow artist Jackie Olson was a keynote speaker and councillor Jay Farr was also in attendance, showing his support.

I would also like at this time to extend my congratulations to Joyce Cayley on the occasion of her receiving an honorary diploma from the school. Joyce wears many hats in our community. Most of us know her as the IODE Ice Pool lady — and I'm told that the river is about to go out at any minute right now. She's also an educator and she's been teaching in Dawson at Robert Service School for her complete career and most importantly, Joyce is a lifelong learner and an inspiration to many Klondikers. Joyce mentioned in her acceptance speech how accommodating the community is to people of all ages and she gave a shout out to Greg Hakonson and John Steins who were instrumental in creating the Dawson City Arts Society, through which KIAC and SOVA operate. SOVA could not have picked a more worthy recipient — a mentor to me during my teaching years in Dawson City and also a wonderful member of the community. So congratulations to Joyce.

On behalf of all Dawson residents I want to thank the students for choosing SOVA and the Klondike and for their contributions over the years to our great town. To the graduating class, you have achieved a great milestone and deserve credit for your accomplishments. With that I would like to congratulate the class of 2014: Justice Colwell, Sally DeMerchant, Danielle Desrosiers, Chantal Fraser, Ashli Green, Lindsey Johnson, Lucy Koshan, Acasea Lane, Dana Levine, Mathias MacPhee, Amy McAllister, Samantha Medeiros, Sarah Miller, Bronwyn Mundell, and Malanka Topper.

**Hon. Ms. Taylor:** I too would like to rise in the House today to pay tribute to the students who were

completing two excellent post-secondary programs available here in the north, one of which the Member for Klondike had just mentioned — the School of Visual Arts, which operates out of historic Dawson City.

I also want to pay tribute to the recent graduates — some of whom received graduation certificates at the Centre for Northern Innovation in Mining graduation ceremony, as well in Dawson.

This year there are 15 students who have completed their foundation year at School of Visual Arts and another 42 students who are graduating from various programs at CNIM. We wish to congratulate, on behalf of our government — a great big thank you to all of the students, instructors, staff and administrators for a very successful year.

School of Visual Arts is an accredited art college, where students complete their foundational year, which is the first year of study in a bachelor of fine arts or a bachelor of design degree. Students can then transfer into a second year of study at our partnering institutions to complete their degrees in Vancouver, Calgary, Toronto or Halifax.

What makes SOVA so very unique is that it is a joint venture between the Dawson City Arts Society, Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in First Nation and Yukon College. By attending SOVA, students are able to draw on the rich, inspirational surroundings of the Klondike, allowing their creativity to flow freely. SOVA students also have access to excellent facilities, further preparing them to continue their studies down south.

As for CNIM — this year's 42 grads have completed a variety of programs that have helped prepare them for work in the mining industry.

As we're all very much aware, earlier this year, our Premier — on behalf of the Government of Yukon — was very pleased to be able to announce more than \$11 million dollars over five years, in support of the Centre for Northern Innovation in Mining. Again, this is as an opportunity to provide Yukoners with the training they need to gain successful careers in the territory's mining industry, as well as all industrial trades.

At the Pelly Crossing campus, 10 students are graduating from the introduction to haul-truck operator program, nine students are graduating from the introduction to surface mining program, and another seven have successfully completed the introduction to underground mining program. These are offered in cooperation by the Yukon College and our partners in Delta Junction in Alaska.

Another nine grads have finished the welding dual credit pre-employment program in Dawson City, and seven full-time students have achieved their mineral resource certificate. The certificate program has an additional four part-time students who are in the process of also completing their studies.

Training Yukoners for Yukon opportunities is the ideal way to achieve our labour market goals. The students who have completed these programs should be very proud of themselves, whether they are continuing with their studies or whether they are preparing to enter the work force.

We offer our most heartfelt congratulations to these students and admire their drive to continue down the path of lifelong learning.

**Speaker:** Introduction of visitors.

Are there any returns or documents for tabling?

## TABLING RETURNS AND DOCUMENTS

**Speaker:** The Chair has for tabling the *Report of the Chief Electoral Officer of Yukon on Political Contributions — 2013*. The Chair also has for tabling the *Report on Subsistence, Travel & Accommodations of Members of the Yukon Legislative Assembly 2013-2014*.

Are there any further returns or documents for tabling?

Are there any reports of committees?

Are there any petitions to be presented?

Are there any bills to be introduced?

Are there any notices of motions?

## NOTICES OF MOTIONS

**Mr. Tredger:** I rise to give notice of the following motion:

THAT this House urges the Government of Canada to refrain from making any changes to the *Seeds Act* or to the *Plant Breeders' Rights Act* through Bill C-18, *An Act to amend certain Acts pertaining to agriculture and agri-food*; and

THAT this House further urge the Government of Yukon to protect the rights of farmers and other Canadians to save, reuse, select, exchange and sell seeds.

**Speaker:** Is there a statement by a minister?

This then brings us to Question Period.

## QUESTION PERIOD

**Question re: Mining legislation**

**Ms. Hanson:** Yesterday, the Yukon government was forced to extend the interim staking prohibition in the Ross River area for two months. The extension of this moratorium on staking begs the question: What concrete progress has the government made in addressing the issues raised in the Ross River Dena Council's appeal court decision? Yukon First Nations, including the Ross River Dena Council, have repeatedly told this government that the reforms to the class 1 notification will not address the problems with the current mining legislation.

In return for First Nation support for the devolution transfer agreement, the Yukon government agreed to consult Yukon First Nations to create modern successor resource legislation. So, Mr. Speaker, why is this government fearful of working with Yukon First Nations to create modern mining legislation that reflects the 21<sup>st</sup> century?

**Hon. Mr. Kent:** When it comes to the successor resource legislation, the previous government was able to complete the forestry act — it took some time to complete that — and then a working group was set up. I believe that lands was the next act that was identified by that working group to complete.

As I mentioned prior to Christmas in debate on Bill No. 66, *Act to Amend the Placer Mining Act and the Quartz Mining Act*, we feel that the *Quartz Mining Act* and the *Placer Mining Act* have served the Yukon industry very well over the years. We have made a number of improvements over the years to those acts that we feel have modernized them, including amendments to the royalty regime as well as the class 1 notification amendments that the member opposite referenced in her initial question.

**Ms. Hanson:** The devolution transfer agreement provided an opportunity to establish cooperative working arrangements with First Nations to create modern resource legislation. First Nations have been clear in correspondence with the Yukon Party government for 10 years about their goal to modernize Yukon mining legislation. First Nations have been clear that bringing Yukon mining legislation into the 21<sup>st</sup> century must be done in close cooperation with the mining industry. It is clear to everyone except this government that Yukon's mining laws need a serious overhaul. Our mining legislation cannot be modernized with a series of band-aid fixes.

Will this government commit to working with First Nations, industry and the public to establish modern mining legislation that will allow for sustained growth and investor certainty in Yukon's mining sector?

**Hon. Mr. Kent:** We are very much committed to working with First Nations on successor resource legislation. As I mentioned in my initial answer, the *Forest Resources Act* was passed by the previous government coming out of devolution. There was a working group set up in which they identified the next priorities for successor resource legislation, and I believe that priority was land.

When it comes to the *Quartz Mining Act* and the *Placer Mining Act*, they are obviously older pieces of legislation but they have served the Yukon Territory very well over the years. We have a very healthy and robust mineral sector here in the territory and that's the thing that we need to ensure that we protect. Of course our government supports the mining industry, as do most of the First Nations in the territory. That's what we have certainly heard from the leadership. Any changes that we were to contemplate for any of those mineral acts would have to take into account the fact that we want to ensure we have a successful and a sustained mining and exploration industry here in the territory.

**Ms. Hanson:** In 11 years, we did one, identified another and refused the key one — mining. Mr. Speaker, this government is getting sued left, right and centre over its unwillingness to consult with First Nations. At this rate, the only industry that's going to be thriving in this territory is law — the legal one.

The minister has to understand by now that money is tight in the mining sector. When investors are looking at where they will invest their money, they choose the place where they can invest with certainty, but Yukon today does not have such certainty, thanks to Yukon Party mismanagement. The Yukon envisioned by the new relationships and legal obligations

forged by First Nation final agreements and the devolution transfer agreement would be that place of certainty.

Does the government realize that its disrespectful attitude toward First Nations and its inaction on modernizing the Yukon mining regime is hurting Yukon's economy?

**Hon. Mr. Kent:** As I mentioned, we're not disrespecting the devolution transfer agreement. The changes to the *Forest Resources Act* took a number of years to complete. Obviously there was a working group set up that identified the next piece of resource legislation that was to be dealt with and that's the *Lands Act*. When it comes to certainty for the mining industry, of course we recognize what the investment climate needs.

The Premier, the Minister of Economic Development and I — and, in fact, all members on this side of the House — recognize what industry needs to be able to flourish, and we recognize that those investment dollars that are attracted to the Yukon mining industry are very mobile and they can move to any jurisdiction, not only in Canada, but around the world. We are constantly looking to make improvements to our licensing and permitting regime — to the royalty changes that we made that landed us right in the middle. When it comes to certainty — and when the Leader of the New Democratic Party talks about certainty for the mining industry, it is probably more of a certain death for that industry. It is very upsetting for me to listen to that and then compare that against what they have promised in their platform, which would surely have led to the end of free-entry staking as well as to the end of a positive investment climate for mining here in our territory.

#### **Question re: Seasonal auxiliary employee layoffs**

**Ms. Hanson:** Last week, the Yukon Employees Union launched a formal grievance with the Yukon government for laying off four seasonal, on-call employees and replacing them with private contractors. The government got caught and has now backtracked by cancelling the request for proposals for private surveyors. In a statement on Friday, the union said that they had acquired documents through an access-to-information request that showed that a private interest had lobbied the government prior to this decision being made. If this government eliminated these positions based on private interest lobbying efforts, it calls into question the integrity and the transparency of this government.

Will the minister confirm whether or not this government met with lobbyists before deciding to lay off the four public servants in question?

**Hon. Mr. Cathers:** Again, I reminded the member yesterday that this is a personnel matter. I noted to the member that senior staff conducted an operational review of the needs of the department for surveyors upon the substantial completion of phases 1 and 2 of the Whistle Bend project. A decision was made at that time by senior officials.

The Yukon Employees Union raised a concern with that decision and the deputy minister contacted them to arrange a meeting to discuss that. It is a personnel matter, so I am not going to comment beyond emphasizing that the government is committed to honouring all of its obligations under the

collective bargaining agreement and to maintaining a positive working relationship with employees and with the union representing them.

**Ms. Hanson:** The fact remains that what happens in the department is the minister's responsibility. What the Opposition is asking for in this House is some accountability from this minister. The decision to lay off these employees, despite their collective agreement, calls into question the leadership ability of this government when confronted with lobbying efforts. Public servants want to know whether or not they will be laid off every time private lobbies approach the government for more contracting opportunities.

It is really a simple question. Did this government meet with lobbyists before it decided to contract out surveying jobs? Public servants deserve a straight answer.

**Hon. Mr. Cathers:** Once again we see the Leader of the NDP making unfounded accusations and unnecessarily causing fear through her comments. I would remind the member that this is a personnel matter. As has been the practice of ministers of every government, every stripe — going back through the decades since Yukon has had responsible government here in the territory — ministers do not comment on personnel matters here in the House.

There was an operational review done regarding the need for surveyors, which was conducted by senior officials. Upon the substantial completion of phases 1 and 2 of the Whistle Bend project, a decision was made by senior officials at that time. The Yukon Employees Union has raised a concern with that and we treat that concern seriously.

The deputy minister has arranged a meeting with them to discuss this matter and, since it's a personnel matter, I'm not going to comment further, beyond emphasizing the fact that this government, my colleagues and I, as well as senior officials in departments, are fully committed to honouring all of our obligations under collective bargaining agreements and to fostering and maintaining a positive working relationship with government employees and with the union representing them.

**Ms. Hanson:** It's really clear that the minister only started respecting the collective bargaining after the YEU publicly outed his government's unacceptable conduct. The minister's unwillingness to answer the question speaks volumes about his and his government's conduct. The fact of the matter is that this government is being lobbied and it's not being forthcoming about it.

Every government in Canada is lobbied from time to time. There is nothing wrong with this, but there is something wrong with this government's unwillingness to disclose who it is meeting with and who is potentially influencing them. These kinds of backroom dealings are unacceptable.

Will the minister concede that, in light of recent events, the proposed NDP paid lobbyist act has merit and move forward with it?

**Hon. Mr. Cathers:** Again, with this matter, I would reiterate the fact that this is an operational matter. Because it's a personnel matter, this minister, as with previous ministers of every government of every stripe, does not comment on

personnel matters. I remind the member, as I did yesterday, that an operational review was done by senior staff on the need for surveyors within Community Services, upon substantial completion of phases 1 and 2 of Whistle Bend. A decision was made at that time by senior officials. The Yukon Employees Union has raised a concern with that decision. The deputy minister has arranged a meeting with them to discuss this matter this week. As it is a personnel matter, I'm not going to comment beyond emphasizing the government is committing to honouring our obligations in the collective bargaining agreement and to fostering and maintaining a positive working relationship with all government employees and with the union representing them.

It is interesting, with the member's specific bill — if the member is suggesting that every citizen, every person in the territory who wishes to bring a concern to ministers, MLAs or officials should now have to register first, that is something that we do not believe Yukoners would support.

#### **Question re: Mining regulatory uncertainty**

**Mr. Silver:** I have a question for the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources. At this year's mineral Roundup in Vancouver, the head of the Yukon Prospectors' Association had some interesting things to say about the outlook for mining in the Yukon. One of them is that people are saying things aren't quite as rosy as we have been led to believe over the years in the Yukon. The boom enjoyed during record high mineral prices is now over. However, the underlying problems still do exist. We lack infrastructure, particularly in regard to power. We lack skilled workers. The governments relationship with the governments that own a lot of the Yukon — the First Nations — is now at a low point. Our regulatory regime has also been subject to a great amount of criticism as of late.

What is the government doing to start addressing some of these underlying issues?

**Hon. Mr. Kent:** I am happy to answer the question from the member opposite when it comes to some of the challenges facing the mining industry that he identified. When it comes to labour, we can just look back at a tribute earlier today to the Centre for Northern Innovation in Mining and this government's support for that training facility at Yukon College and the number of Yukoners who are getting trained.

When it comes to infrastructure, there is a substantial investment in our transportation infrastructure being made in this very budget that I know the member opposite will be voting against, as well as significant investments in power planning here in the territory. Something that is very near and dear to my heart as the minister is to ensure that we have a competitive regulatory and licensing regime.

One only needs to look back at the announcement made last week by Executive Council Office introducing timelines for the adequacy stage for quartz water licensing. We feel we are making progress and that it will all be in the best interest of the mining industry going forward.

**Mr. Silver:** The head of the Prospectors' Association says that companies are tired of the hype and they want action.

They are annoyed to be finding out that things are not quite as rosy as they have been led to believe over the years by this government. For many years the Yukon Party rode a wave of high mineral prices and glossed over the fact that there were underlying issues.

Here's another example. The government's effort to market the Yukon as a good place to do business was dealt a serious blow at the mineral Roundup when the Peel lawsuit was announced. The head of the Prospectors' Association said it was unlikely that there would be any serious exploration in the Peel watershed for many years. The blame for this uncertainty belongs with the government because of its inability, or just plain unwillingness, to come to an agreement with First Nation governments in that area. Why did the government choose this confrontational approach to land use planning?

**Hon. Mr. Kent:** As members know, we chose to modify the final recommended plan that was put forward by the Peel Watershed Planning Commission. We made some modifications to it that we believe will still respect and protect the environmental integrity of the area, but also allow for some economic activity to occur in that area as well. We're very proud of the restricted use wilderness areas that we have put in place with limited disturbance at any one time. We're very proud of the new protected areas that we've created, making the Yukon with the highest percentage of protected areas in the territory.

The Liberal Party and the New Democratic Party chose, during the election campaign and before, to endorse the final recommended plan of the Peel Watershed Planning Commission, but I'm very interested to hear where they would have gotten the money to purchase those claims from those existing claim holders and to buy that out, because that is something we were not willing to do — which was to put in jeopardy Yukon's future and perhaps bankrupt the territory as the Liberals and the New Democrats would have done.

**Mr. Silver:** "Modifications," the minister says — more like outright rejections of the Peel plan.

Mr. Speaker, when the government says that it would be courting mining at the Roundup, I'm not sure that this is what they had in mind.

There was concern expressed by the industry at the Roundup that the government has been painting an unrealistic picture. The hype has not been matched by action on the ground floor, so to speak. While the Premier and his ministers were sailing around the Vancouver harbour, the industry was getting a taste of just how much uncertainty this government has unleashed with its stick-in-the-eye approach to First Nation relations. The head of the Prospectors' Association said that there will not be serious exploration in the Peel region for many, many years.

I will ask a question, Mr. Speaker. Can the minister explain how coming up with a land use plan that has so little buy-in from Yukon First Nation governments could actually increase certainty for the mining industry?

**Hon. Mr. Kent:** Of course we're looking at addressing those concerns in the mining industry. I mentioned our

significant investment in our transportation infrastructure as well as our power infrastructure, the work with the Water Board, the training work with the Centre for Northern Innovation in Mining, and working with Canada and First Nations to improve the *Yukon Environmental and Socio-economic Assessment Act* process.

When it comes to supporting the mining industry, that's something that not only I personally do, but our government does. We respect the contributions of that industry to the territory. We're pleased that some of the private companies like Chihong Mining will be making a significant investment in the territory this year — \$56 million.

Again, the member opposite can support the mining industry one day and not support it another day, but the fact is that —

**Some Hon. Member:** (inaudible)

**Hon. Mr. Kent:** He is yelling across floor that he always supports it. By expropriating claims in the Peel? I don't think so.

#### Question re: Pelly Crossing airfield

**Mr. Tredger:** I asked last week about whether or not this government is planning upgrades to the Pelly airfield so that medevacs can use it. The minister avoided the question and stuck to vague talking points about airports and safety. A few days later, he sent a department spokesperson to tell the media that the job would get done and medevacs would be able to land in Pelly Crossing in 2018 — 2018, Mr. Speaker.

Does the minister really believe that the safety of the people of Pelly Crossing can wait another four years until 2018?

**Hon. Mr. Istchenko:** I was looking forward to getting into this debate during my budget, with some of the great advances we're doing with runways in the Yukon. You can see in our budget that there is a lot of money put forward.

This gravel airstrip at Pelly Crossing — for those who don't realize it — is 3,300 feet long and is primarily used by small, private charter aircrafts, the RCMP and the occasional medevac flight. It is believed that there are fewer than 200 aircraft movements annually. The airstrip was constructed in 1986 for light, medium-sized aircraft certified for use on gravel runways. It was not designed to accommodate higher performance aircrafts such as the Beech King Air 300 that is used for medevacs today.

The member just answered his own question by stating that there is money in this budget. We are working on upgrades to all of our runways, including this one.

**Mr. Tredger:** Over the weekend, I spoke with another resident of Pelly Crossing. He was seriously injured in the bush and had to be medevaced. He was stabilized, put on an IV and then taken by the Pelly ambulance on the bumpy road to Stewart Crossing. He was then transferred to the Mayo ambulance. The medevac flight left Mayo, but had to land in Ross River to pick up another patient before finally making it to Whitehorse. Stories of families arriving in Whitehorse before their relative who was medevaced gets there are

common. The system is clearly not working. The residents of Pelly Crossing deserve better.

Why is this minister waiting another four years to get the job done?

**Hon. Mr. Istchenko:** That's why, as member actually mentioned, we are going to reconstruct the existing runway, and are scheduled to begin in 2015-16 with a \$250,000 budget that year and an additional \$300,000 in the following year. A further \$150,000 is anticipated in 2017-18 for a second application of dust binders or suppressants to keep the dust down. In the interim, the department is investigating the cost benefits of extending the runway approximately 1,000 feet. We're working on it. There is money. I'm talking about money right here. Of course, the member opposite is not going to be voting for it.

**Mr. Tredger:** The minister's inaction makes his talking about safety sound hollow. Rural Yukoners want to see some concrete results and the minister has failed to deliver. The First Nation government has requested upgrades to the Pelly runway for years. I've heard the same from emergency responders. The government just announced a surplus of \$72 million. The Pelly airfield upgrade is a matter of \$700,000. What the government is saying right now is that this is an important safety issue and we have the money, but will wait until 2018 to address it — fingers crossed that nothing bad will happen between now and then. This is unacceptable, Mr. Speaker.

Will the Premier intervene and make sure his minister is making the safety of Pelly Crossing residents a real priority?

**Hon. Mr. Istchenko:** I thank the member opposite for the question.

Mr. Speaker, we take the safety of our airports very seriously. We have a rigorous surface management system in place that identifies and prioritizes needed airport improvements. Yukon government is investing millions this year in Yukon's airports. We will continue to invest, upgrade and repair our facilities, maintain our excellent safety record, and develop the infrastructure that is required to realize Yukon's full economic potential and the safety of Yukoners.

**Question re: Residential Landlord and Tenant Act**

**Ms. White:** Under section 33 of the *Residential Landlord and Tenant Act* that will someday become law, a landlord must provide and maintain a residential property in a condition that complies with the health, safety and housing standards required by the regulations. We all know that the regulations are still a work in progress despite the minister's commitment that the law would be in effect in 2013.

We want to get an idea of how health standards will be enforced. Mould is a typical air quality concern in Yukon's rental housing stock. Once the regulations are in place and the residential tenancy office is open, can the minister responsible for Community Services outline how a tenant's concern about air quality will be managed? Will tenants be able to ask the residential tenancy office for air quality tests?

**Hon. Mr. Cathers:** I would point out, as the member correctly stated, that some of the details will be determined

and defined once the regulations are put into effect. We just recently concluded public consultation on issues within the regulations. I would point out to members that, in addition to raising concerns with the residential landlord tenancy office, at this current point in time someone who has concerns about environmental health issues can also contact Environmental Health Services to raise those issues with them.

**Ms. White:** Landlords and tenants both look forward to seeing those regulations. Health and safety standards are to prevent negative health impacts. Yukon tenants have learned the hard way that a few bad-apple landlords have rented out housing with dangerous, even deadly, air quality issues. When it comes to enforcing standards to protect life and maintain a culture of safety, Yukoners want clear and enforceable standards for all.

Will health standards, including air quality in the new legislation, be universal? Will they apply to all tenants and landlords including those living in Yukon Housing Corporation units and to the Yukon Housing Corporation itself?

**Hon. Mr. Cathers:** What I would point out to the member is that some of the details will be determined once the regulations are in place. I would remind the member again that the legislation that was developed, the *Residential Landlord and Tenant Act*, was developed from the work that began first within an all-party committee of the Legislative Assembly and followed through with additional public consultation on the act and additional consultation on the regulations.

I would remind the member that, despite the importance the NDP attach to this area now, during three terms in government they failed to take any action to address this important file or to modernize the legislation, which was 50 years old when this government took action to update the legislation.

We recognize the importance that every one of the details of every part of the act and every part of the regulations has on both landlords and tenants and how important it is to their daily lives, and that is exactly why we both conducted thorough public consultation and are thoroughly analyzing that input.

The standards that are in place are expected to be fair to both landlords and tenants and to ensure appropriate standards in all Yukon accommodations.

**Ms. White:** The minister's answer was heavy on words and light on answers.

During housing debate on April 7, I asked the minister what tenants with air quality concerns should do. The minister suggested the tenant contact the director of the Housing Corporation to ask for an air quality test. One tenant did just that. They were told that the Yukon Housing Corporation staff can request a test if they think that their workplace health and safety is affected by air quality, but tenants who live in these same conditions do not have that same right.

Does the minister think that it is fair that staff who occasionally work in Yukon Housing Corporation buildings



can order air quality tests, but the residents who live in these conditions every day cannot?

**Hon. Mr. Cathers:** Actually, what the minister thinks is that member has her facts wrong. I appreciate the importance of this area and would note to members that when tenants have raised concerns about air quality, not only is there action that has been taken, but we have money in the budget that is before the House right now to invest in upgrades to existing facilities, including to improve air quality in existing Yukon Housing Corporation facilities.

I have roughly \$1.65 million in this year's budget to invest in our existing housing stock, and that includes air ventilation upgrades — and that includes air ventilation upgrades that are being invested in as a direct result of tenants raising a concern about air quality and the Yukon Housing Corporation acting upon it.

**Question re: Ross River suspension bridge**

**Ms. Moorcroft:** The people of Ross River are still living with uncertainty about the long-outstanding work on the Ross River suspension bridge and the unanswered questions about how the ferry will operate this summer. Access to the North Canol is important to both citizens and businesses. As one example only, the ferry is regularly used by tourist operators.

This is a transportation question. Is it the government's plan for there to be no access to the North Canol Road across the Pelly River from Ross River this summer?

**Hon. Mr. Istchenko:** I do thank the member opposite for the question, and I hope that some of the listeners in Ross River, some of the tourism operators, some of the outfitters and some of the people who like to look for gold and do some exploration are listening, because we are not planning to have a ferry service up there.

We are working with Occupational Health and Safety. We have been working with them. The 70-year-old bridge was deemed an immediate risk of collapse by an engineering report, so we cannot just run the ferry on the regular hours. We are looking at different options. The department is coming back with options for me to see if we can run the ferry in the afternoons with a safety boat.

We are going to have a ferry operation this summer. It might not be what we had before, but we are definitely going to — I will commit to making sure we have a ferry operation. The Department of Highways and Public Works, first of all, has to be committed to providing a safe, efficient transportation infrastructure for all the users.

**Ms. Moorcroft:** First of all, everybody cares about safety. It's not too much to ask for the minister to care about both safety and transportation and the community's needs. The minister just stood there and said that they are not planning to have a ferry service, and then he said we are looking at different options, and then he said we are going to have a ferry service.

We know what needs to happen. The bridge needs to be stabilized for the ferry to run. The Ross River Dena Council and the people of Ross River met with the Yukon Party

government in good faith, and more than a month has gone by since the Premier issued a release committed to working together to stabilize the bridge.

There has been no request for proposals even issued yet and it is not certain whether that commitment is going to be honoured by the Premier.

When does the Premier plan to honour the commitment he made to work with the Ross River Dena Council and the community to stabilize the Ross River suspension bridge so that the ferry can run?

**Hon. Mr. Istchenko:** I will apologize. I did not mean to say that the ferry is not going to run. I meant to say that the ferry is going to run. It will be running this summer.

Safety is of the utmost importance at all times and I have said it in the House before when I was asked. We are very pleased to continue work with the Ross River Dena Council. We are in constant communication with them and community members. Once we look at exactly how this is going to run and the O&M costs, we will be able to put a schedule together and we will be able to let Yukoners know — let the tourism industry know; let the mining industry know; let the locals know — when the ferry will be running, or maybe a contact that they can get a hold of and ask all the questions in the world that they want of the department.

**Ms. Moorcroft:** This minister is sounding really confused and it sounds, as well, that the government is planning to leave the people of Ross River and affected businesses stranded for the coming season.

The government could issue a request for proposals to stabilize the Ross River suspension bridge. Two ministers and a Premier stand in this House and make it sound complicated, but they don't answer the question. It is simple. The government has to issue an RFP to stabilize the bridge. If this was a priority, it could have happened months ago. If the bridge is stabilized, the ferry can operate.

When will this government issue an RFP to stabilize the Ross River suspension bridge?

**Hon. Mr. Pasloski:** As the minister articulated clearly, the number one issue for this government is to ensure public safety. That will always remain the number one issue — having said that, we continue to work with the community of Ross River and with the chief and council. My staff have been in continuous communication with the chief and council. The senior staff of the Department of Community Services has also been in communication with the community and with chief and council. I believe there have been discussions to have TIAY begin having discussions to the Department of Highways and Public Works, working together to see what solutions we can come up with until we can do exactly what we said we would do, which is to stabilize this bridge.

The number one commitment is to public safety. We will stabilize the bridge, once we have all the information that is required. We are working together and communicating with the chief and council. They are fully supportive of the position that we've taken. They realize that safety is the number one issue, and we will go forward with the community to resolve this.

**Speaker:** The time for Question Period has now elapsed.

### Notice of opposition private members' business

**Ms. Stick:** Pursuant to Standing Order 14.2(3), I would like to identify the items standing in the name of the Official Opposition to be called on Wednesday, April 30, 2014: Motion No. 638, standing in the name of the Member for Whitehorse Centre, and Motion No. 631, standing in the name of the Member for Mayo-Tatchun.

**Mr. Silver:** Pursuant to Standing Order 14.2(3), I would like to identify the item standing in the name of the Third Party to be called on Wednesday, April 30, 2014: Motion No. 659, standing in the name of the Member for Klondike.

**Speaker:** We will now proceed to Orders of the Day.

## ORDERS OF THE DAY

**Hon. Mr. Cathers:** Mr. Speaker, I move that the Speaker do now leave the Chair and that the House resolve into Committee of the Whole.

**Speaker:** It has been moved by the Government House Leader that the Speaker do now leave the Chair and that the House resolve into Committee of the Whole.

*Motion agreed to*

*Speaker leaves the Chair*

## COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

**Chair (Ms. McLeod):** Order please. Committee of the Whole will now come to order. The matter before the Committee is general debate in Vote 8, Department of Justice, in Bill No. 14, entitled *First Appropriation Act, 2014-15*. Do members wish to take a brief recess?

**All Hon. Members:** Agreed.

**Chair:** Committee of the Whole will recess for 15 minutes.

*Recess*

**Chair:** Committee of the Whole will now come to order.

### Bill No. 14: First Appropriation Act, 2014-15 — *continued*

**Chair:** The matter before the Committee is general debate is Vote 8, Department of Justice, in Bill No. 14, entitled *First Appropriation Act, 2014-15*, adjourned debate, Ms. Moorcroft.

#### Department of Justice — *continued*

**Ms. Moorcroft:** When we had adjourned debate, I had put on the record a number of questions for the minister related to Yukon's *Victims of Crime Strategy* and the

\$500,000 expenditure for the victims of crime strategy in the current year. The Yukon NDP, as the Official Opposition, believes that bringing a human rights lens to the needs of all victims at all times is long overdue. It's a large project to provide the training necessary to officials working in the criminal justice system that would incorporate human rights values, principles and legal responsibilities into their daily work, but it is a necessary project.

Human rights values are essential to all programs and services across the Department of Justice. The Northern Institute of Social Justice has been working on curriculum related to First Nation history and the historic relationship between First Nation communities and the settler society.

The Northern Institute of Social Justice delivers training programs for governments and for non-government organizations and business as well in education, justice, health, social services and wellness fields. They've developed specific programs for police and for corrections staff, including working on implementing some of the recommendations that were made in the *Sharing Common Ground* report after the review of Yukon's police force in 2010. They could certainly develop and deliver programs on a regular basis to Department of Justice employees. I know that they did work on putting on a program for the recruitment for more women and First Nations into the RCMP. That's an outstanding concern that the police force does not reflect the community it serves, and that there are very low numbers of women and of First Nations within the police force.

Continuing on the human rights approach to administering a justice system, building relationships with others to support good governance and fostering safe communities with opportunities for healing, I would like to come back to some questions the minister has not yet answered that are in that field.

At one time, public servants had the opportunity for regular training on land claims and on Yukon First Nation culture in order for Yukon government workers in the Department of Justice and elsewhere to build and maintain constructive working relationships with First Nations who are their co-workers or clients, particularly employees who are new to the Yukon. An introductory course is needed for employees on Yukon First Nation heritage and culture, the meaning of land claims and self-government agreements, the colonial experience of First Nations and residential schools.

Previously in debate on the Justice budget, I had asked the Minister of Justice a number of questions about operations at Whitehorse Correctional Centre specifically related to training for people who are working with inmates on the residential school experience, the sixties scoop and the present-day reality of an overwhelmingly large number of First Nation children in foster care, in group homes and other forms of state custody. We all know that the inmate population at the Correctional Centre is generally a minimum of 70-percent First Nation, and that can go as high as 90 percent.

I would recommend to the minister — when he said that the budget for the current year would include further research

on First Nation cultural programming, enhancing staff training and incorporating First Nation culture into case management practices as well as exploring restorative justice — that the time for that to occur is now. His direction to officials should be that regular and interactive training with the Whitehorse Correctional Centre elders advisory committee would be of value to the staff at the Correctional Centre and the people who are held there, whether they are on remand or on sentence status. That's another unanswered question from the minister relating to when and how frequently he is going to have that kind of training available.

I also had asked the Minister of Justice about the Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder prevalence study and identifying the mental health and substance abuse problems of adults in the correctional population.

The minister said that there was an exciting announcement coming soon and that was on April 1. On April 7, I asked for more information. It is now April 29. I would like the minister — twice he has committed — to provide a copy of the research methodology and an overview of that prevalence study. I would hope that he would provide that this afternoon.

When we last debated Justice, in response to one of my questions regarding what was being done to address the recidivism rate of inmates in the Yukon, the minister said — and I quote: “Corrections has adopted evidence-based rehabilitation programming and services to reduce recidivism, which means that the interventions for inmates has been subject to rigorous evaluations and has been proven to reduce recidivism.” Then later, in response to one of my follow-up questions, the minister informed me that the term “recidivism” is no longer used and the term “re-contact” is more appropriate. Fair enough — but he also said that the Department of Justice does not have the information technology capacity to produce information on re-contact at this time.

Part of what governments do when they implement programming — like the re-contact program that the minister has previously described — is that they have data tracking to know if their programming has been effective. How does the department plan on making decisions about their recidivism or re-contact programming if they have no understanding of its effects? The minister has contradicted himself there.

I had asked a very specific question about how many inmates have been housed at Whitehorse Correctional Centre during the year. If he doesn't have the 2013 fiscal year, I would like to have the 2012 fiscal year. The average inmate population is about 75. The minister has said the numbers have gone down.

One of the reasons I have been trying to get that information from the minister is that we want to ensure that inmates are getting all of the programming that they may need, and we also want to know how often people are coming back to the Correctional Centre after they have already been released. I am sure that the Department of Justice captures that information. I would like the minister to make a commitment to provide it.

Another issue that I have asked the minister about that I have not received satisfactory response on is the overuse of separate confinement or segregation — generally understood as solitary confinement — at Whitehorse Correctional Centre. The minister said that there were 60 inmates who had been placed in separate confinement. That seems like a fairly high number.

I have put on the record that keeping people locked in a small cell for 23 hours a day with only one hour when they are allowed out of that cell amounts to psychological torture. The federal Office of the Correctional Investigator and the United Nations have taken the position that this is a form of psychological torture and it is something that should not be done. The amount of time that people are placed in segregation should be limited.

I believe there are better ways of dealing with the population and keeping them safe than to put them in separate confinement. I would like the minister to make a commitment that he's going to move away from that.

Finally, something I want to address — and something I know a lot of Yukoners want addressed — is the cost of the lawsuits that the current government is embroiled in. We know that the Na Cho Nyäk Dun and the Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in First Nation are suing the government over the Peel. The Kaska Dena Council, Little Salmon Carmacks First Nation and the Taku River Tlingit have also initiated lawsuits.

My question is: What has the government spent? What has the government budgeted to spend on legal fees relating to those court cases?

Madam Chair, I do have other matters that I would like the minister to follow up with, but I will thank him for his response in advance. I would also like to say thank you and welcome to the officials who are here today.

**Hon. Mr. Nixon:** Madam Chair, I would like to start off today backing up to the last time that we were in the Legislature debating the Justice budget. At that time, the member opposite concluded her remarks speaking about victims of crime. It's not often that we hear the Official Opposition speaking in this Legislature about victims of crime. Often it's about individuals at the Whitehorse Correctional Centre.

I would like to spend some time on my feet now just talking about the important work that this Yukon Party government has done to address the needs of victims of crime.

The government is committed to addressing the needs of victims of crime. In August 2009, the *Victims of Crime Strategy* was released. Since that time, we've been actively implementing workplans that fulfill its goals. In 2012, a logic model and evaluation framework was developed to assess the impact of that strategy and data was being collected in 2004. The evaluation will be complete next year.

The *Victims of Crime Strategy* was developed by the Department of Justice and the Women's Directorate in collaboration with First Nations and community agencies in order to enhance our responses to the needs of victims, families and communities. The *Victims of Crime Strategy* complements components of the work of the *Sharing Common*

*Ground*, especially item 4.1, the domestic violence and sexualized assault framework. The strategy was designed to acknowledge, formalize and continually strengthen the Government of Yukon's existing services and to explore new and emerging initiatives, in particular working with others to support victims of crime.

The *Victims of Crime Strategy* has been guided by an implementation advisory committee that met regularly while the strategy was being developed. This committee has representatives from community groups, women's groups, First Nations, Health and Social Services, other justice organizations and the RCMP.

The *Victims of Crime Strategy* has provided a foundation on which to seek funding from other sources for specific initiatives. The Policy Centre for Victim Issues victim's fund has contributed up to an additional half a million dollars per year to enhance the Yukon *Victims of Crime Strategy*. This is part of a five-year agreement from 2011 to 2016.

The strategy has five areas of focus and, Madam Chair, I would like to now update you on what we've achieved in these areas.

We've committed to strengthening the focus on the needs of victims of crime. The strategy initiated funding from Yukon government to enhance services for victims throughout Yukon. Two additional victim services workers were added to the unit in 2010. In addition, with the assistance of the Policy Centre for Victim Issues, an additional victim services worker was hired in Watson Lake, a term position from 2013-16.

Victim Services has offices in Whitehorse, Dawson City and Watson Lake, and all other communities throughout Yukon have a victim services worker assigned to work directly with victims of crime and community supports. Services to rural communities continue to be a priority, including staff travelling to communities during and between court appearances. The Victim Services unit is a service that is accessible voluntarily. It provides support and information to victims of all crime, whether or not a charge has been laid. This victim support includes information about the criminal justice system, the role of the victim in the criminal justice system and opportunities to participate in criminal justice processes.

There is information to victims about options available, the status of the investigation, the next court appearance, the final outcome of the proceedings and the notification regarding the level of supervision of the accused, as well as assistance in the court process by providing information about court proceedings, preparing victims to testify as witnesses, working with federal Crown witness coordinators and supporting victims in preparing victim impact statements.

There is also assistance in accessing and applying for protective orders, such as peace bonds legislated in the *Criminal Code* and emergency intervention orders legislated in the *Family Violence Prevention Act* and emotional support regarding the impact of victimization and referrals to other agencies, where appropriate.

There is also practical support, such as the victims of crime emergency fund, emergency cellphone initiative, letters

of support for housing and referrals to other agencies. There is 24-hour access to VictimLINK — the B.C. crisis line that refers victims to local services such as Kaushee's and Victim Services.

We sit on the youth justice panel to represent the needs of victims of crimes committed by young offenders. There is information and support for victims whose partners are involved with Domestic Violence Treatment Option Court in Whitehorse and Watson Lake and/or the Community Wellness Court in Whitehorse.

Victim Services responds to inter-agency and community requests for programming and training such as vicarious trauma and compassion fatigue, safety planning and mental health first aid. Accessibility to victim services is very, very important. As part of the *Victims of Crime Strategy*, we have public Victim Services brochures to inform the public about the rights of victims and the unit's services. Victim Services completed the development of a communications strategy in 2012. In September 2013, the Victim Services website was updated with input from several community service providers.

The new website went live in November of 2013 as part of an overall website update for the Department of Justice, but can be accessed via [www.victimservicesyukon.ca](http://www.victimservicesyukon.ca). In 2014, Victim Services is rebranding materials and publications. The unit will be launching a public education campaign that promotes access to services and support for victims of crime throughout our incredible territory.

A victims of crime emergency fund has been implemented to address some of the emergency aspects of being victimized that cannot be covered by other sources. The victims of crime emergency fund provides funding for practical supports that addresses the immediate impacts of the crime. Eligibility criteria and guidelines were developed to manage the administration of the fund and they are available on the website.

Examples of services funded by the victims of crime emergency fund include things like crime scene cleanup, emergency home repairs, changing locks, emergency travel and emergency medical costs such as repairing eyeglasses that might have been broken in an assault. Another component of the victims of crime emergency fund is the emergency cellphone program. Emergency phones are provided to address the safety concerns as a result of victimization.

In March of 2013, an evaluation of the victims of crime emergency fund was completed. The victims of crime emergency fund is valued by clients as well as staff, and it meeting some emergency needs. The fund does not address vulnerability or root causes of victimization and does not provide compensation for victims of crime.

Victims and their families can refer themselves to the Victim Services unit by calling the office or simply walking in. Many referrals to Victim Services come from the RCMP after a call for service. In addition, victims of crime are referred to the unit by other agencies and government departments. The Victim Services unit designed a consent card so that referring agencies can provide victim information to Victim Services with the permission of the victim.

Many victims accept the support at first contact with the justice system. Others may connect with Victim Services at other times in the criminal justice process. Victim Services offers information and support to all victims of crime who are referred.

Madam Chair, Victim Services implemented its component of the justice enterprise information network, otherwise known as JEIN, in August 2012. This system provides enhanced case management processes for victims in our territory. The JEIN system allows Victim Services to report more comprehensive statistical information.

Addressing violence against women is another area of focus for our government in the *Victims of Crime Strategy*. This complex problem is especially prevalent in the north and requires a multi-faceted approach. Here are some of the initiatives we participated in with regard to women victims: during the review of Yukon's police force, service providers and clients called for police and other agencies to have a more consistent, effective, coordinated and informed response to domestic violence and sexualized assault. A final report, *Sharing Common Ground*, highlighted recommendations, including the domestic violence sexualized assault framework committee as a result of *Sharing Common Ground*, and it explored a number of specific service delivery areas, including clarifying protocols and practices relating to police charging practices, including dual charging and the use of primary aggressor assessments and supporting research being conducted by the Yukon Advisory Council on Women's Issues to better understand the concept and service gaps related to legal advocacy for women.

The Women's Directorate and the Department of Justice provided funding to the Yukon Advisory Council on Women's Issues to define the research and scope and options for a legal advocate for women. The draft report, *Gaps, Needs and Options: Legal Advocacy for Yukon Women*, from the Yukon Advisory Council on Women's Issues was released in June 2013. The report provided an in-depth review of perceived and actual gaps, as well as needs and options for legal advocacy services for women.

Also in the spring of 2013, the crime prevention and victim services trust fund contributed \$70,000 to the Yukon Status of Women Council for a Court Watch program specifically to observe the experience of women in the justice system. The program is scheduled to run from April 2013 to March 2015. This program will begin in Whitehorse and expand to Dawson City and Watson Lake.

The Yukon Status of Women Council has engaged FREDA, which is the Feminist Research, Education, Development and Action Centre at Simon Fraser University, to assist with the research part of their project. Victim Services unit met several times with the Yukon Status of Women Council and offered to provide information about core processes and schedules to the Court Watch volunteers.

Within the Department of Justice, victim services workers support their clients in court appearances and help them understand the criminal justice system, their rights and their opportunities to participate.

The *Victims of Crime Act*, proclaimed in the spring of 2011, reinforces the rights of victims of crime, including their right to information throughout the justice process. Victim services workers work closely with the Public Prosecution Service of Canada and the RCMP to ensure that a victim's voice is heard and that their views are considered as an integral part of the criminal justice system.

The Department of Justice is a research partner in the Canadian Observatory on the Justice System Response to Intimate Partner Violence.

Victim Services also continues to support the Yukon Sexual Assault Response Committee, consisting of representatives from government and community-based service providers. It is focused on collaboration of services and developing a standard of practice for responding to victims of sexualized assaults. The Sexual Assault Response Committee meets monthly with support from the Victim Services unit.

The Sexual Assault Response Committee is currently working on establishing the feasibility of a third-party referral program, a sexual assault response team and also creating public information regarding myths about sexualized assault response.

Victim Services also participated on the inter-agency working group to prevent violence against women and girls. The social marketing campaign "Am I the Solution?" is led by the Women's Directorate. The aim of the "Am I the Solution?" social marketing campaign is to shed light on the ways that people — often unknowingly — contribute to a Yukon culture that perpetuates violence against women.

Another area of focus in the *Victims of Crime Strategy* is the development of new legislation. In May 2012, this government passed the *Victims of Crime Act* and regulations were proclaimed on April 8, 2011. The act has been supported by a number of public education initiatives outlining information on victims of crime having rights. These include posters, factsheets, information brochures, flashlights and pens. In 2013, Yukon participated in national consultations for the Canadian victims bill of rights hosted by Justice Canada.

Another area of focus in the *Victims of Crime Strategy* is working to support mentorship and capacity building in communities. Victims of crime in Yukon are able to, and do, seek support from a variety of sources including friends, family, community groups and others. This government currently supports a number of community and advocacy groups to provide services to victims.

Victim Services works with other justice workers, such as community justice coordinators, aboriginal courtworkers, probation officers and other allied professionals to address needs in Yukon communities. We are working with communities on the development of community-based initiatives related to victimization.

In January 2014, the Department of Justice and Health and Social Services sponsored the B.C. Women's Hospital and Health Centres facilitator training sessions for Making Connections. This workshop, attended by 32 participants, is intended to train facilitators who will then be able to lead the

Making Connections support groups for women who have experienced violence, mental health issues and substance abuse.

In the two-and-a-half-day workshop, participants developed a fuller understanding of the links between substance abuse, mental health and family violence, and learned how to deliver the Making Connections curriculum. Victim Services coordinates the administration of the crime prevention and Victim Services trust fund. This trust fund supports projects that are intended to reduce crime, prevent violence against women and children, address the root cause of crime, provide information about crime prevention and victimization, or provide services and information to support victims.

Victim Services participates in a pan-territorial working group to develop essential skills for the northern victim services worker program targeted at existing victim services workers and others in communities who respond to victimization. The program, is developed in cooperation with Nunavut and Northwest Territories through the Northern Institute of Social Justice. Core competencies for northern victim services workers have been developed. Several modules are in the process of being developed, including information about the criminal justice system, vicarious trauma and compassion fatigue, trauma training and mental health first aid training. A train-the-trainer workshop on compensation fatigue and vicarious trauma was offered in 2011 and 2012 with ongoing coaching and mentoring of local trainers. These local trainers offer training across Yukon in various formats through funding received through the *Victims of Crime Strategy*.

Madam Chair, I know my time is running short. I do want to answer the questions from the member opposite, but I will sit down now and leave the floor for the member opposite.

**Ms. Moorcroft:** I would like to thank the minister for the information he has already provided. I understand he has some more that he will be reading into the record when he returns. I'm pleased to hear the minister speak about root causes of crime. I must note that we cannot forget that the state has a responsibility to address the root causes of crime and matters that contribute to criminality, such as poverty, racism, discrimination, lack of housing and safety.

I did already know about the Court Watch project being underway. I have some passing familiarity with that, having submitted a recommendation in a report that I wrote on behalf of Yukon women's groups, recommending that there be a Court Watch project to monitor women-abuse cases in Yukon courts, along with the recommendation to look at the needs for a women's advocate and for the Sexual Assault Response Committee. So there's a lot of work that is being done that represents a good response to advocacy on the part of many individuals and many groups that want to improve the justice system.

The minister has indicated he has more information to read into the record, but I'm going to put a question on the record as well that maybe he could answer when he concludes his remarks. That is going back to the cost of lawsuits. When I

asked the minister about that, he indicated that there was \$575,000 that was for 2013-14. I would like a breakdown by department of that, but the minister also said there was no estimate prepared yet for 2014-15.

I would like to ask the minister if he can report whether his officials have calculated a rough estimate of what it might cost for all of the lawsuits that are underway. I refer to the lawsuit related to the government rejecting the Peel regional land use plan that has been brought forward by the Na Cho Nyäk Dun and Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in, as well as the lawsuits ongoing with the Kaska Dena Council, Little Salmon-Carmacks First Nation and the Taku River Tlingit First Nation. The minister might have some information on that.

**Hon. Mr. Nixon:** Just in wrapping up my previous comments about victims of crime — the *Victims of Crime Strategy* supports the development of integrated responses for victims, offenders, families and communities. Victim Services staff participate in monitoring of safety with respect to victims in both the domestic violence treatment option and the Community Wellness Court. The Department of Justice has operated the Domestic Violence Treatment Option Court since March 2001. The Domestic Violence Treatment Option Court continues to operate in Whitehorse and in Watson Lake.

The Department of Justice provides programming for offenders both individually and in a group at the Whitehorse Correctional Centre and Offender Supervision and Services. Victim Services offers information to victims whose partners are attending programs in the DVTO Court.

Victim Services staff participates in integrated offender management case conferences to ensure the victim's voice is represented in case planning. Victim Service staff liaise with Community Justice staff and Community Justice committees to explore interest in participation in restorative initiatives. Four members of the Victims of Crime Strategy Advisory Committee attended a national knowledge exchange on victim-focused risk assessment and safety planning in October 2012.

In March 2014, Victim Services hosted inter-agency training on risk assessment and highest risk information. As part of the additional support offered by Canada, Victim Services is working with a multidisciplinary team to enhance responses for child-youth victims and witnesses of crime. The Lynx program is implementing national best practices for working with child-youth victims and witnesses of crimes based on child advocacy centre models.

Victim Services coordinates the Lynx program and is working with the Public Prosecution Service of Canada, the RCMP, Health and Social Services — I would like to thank the Minister of Health and Social Services for his involvement, he has been a great advocate in this — also the Whitehorse General Hospital, Court Services and other service providers to develop a coordinated and integrated approach. Best practices include a multidisciplinary team approach, development of child-friendly environments, developmentally and culturally appropriate forensic interviews and medical examinations as well as clinical interventions, testimonial aids and case tracking and research.



Justice Canada selected Yukon as one of five research sites to evaluate the implementation of national best practices for child advocacy centres. Data collection for this research will begin in 2015.

I just want to bring one more item to light before I go into the questions of the member opposite, because there was a recent press release from the RCMP pertaining to an individual who was recently charged in Yukon for trying to lure a young person. A couple of years ago, I had the pleasure of attending the Canadian Centre for Child Protection and I think the work this government has done on a number of different levels, both with the Minister of Education and her department, the Minister of Health and Social Services and his department and the support of all members of this Legislative Assembly — I think we made a difference.

The Canadian Centre for Child Protection provides excellent services and educational materials to protect children. The centre is a national charitable organization and is dedicated to the personal safety of all children. Their goal is to reduce child victimization by providing programs and services through the following programs: [www.cybertip.ca](http://www.cybertip.ca), which is a tip line to address the on-line sexual exploitation of children; through [www.missingkids.ca](http://www.missingkids.ca), which is a missing children resource and response centre; through Kids in the Know, an interactive child safety education program; and through the program Commit to Kids, which is a sexual abuse prevention program for child-serving organizations.

An interesting note, Madam Chair — during the advertising campaign last year, there were 2,288 Yukoners who viewed the [www.cybertip.ca](http://www.cybertip.ca) page, representing an increase of 1,285 by Cybertip's average monthly visits in our territorial web presence.

Yukon Justice continues to work collaboratively with the Canadian Centre for Child Protection to deliver educational materials and resources to youth, parents and educators. The goal is to build awareness of dangerous on-line behaviours and provide tools for those managing difficult cyber situations such as cyberbullying and the sexual exploitation of youth. This year's campaign will promote [www.needhelpnow.ca](http://www.needhelpnow.ca), a youth resource to address issues around distributing sexual images and videos on-line as a form of bullying.

In January of 2013, the Department of Justice committed to a financial partnership with the Canadian Centre for Child Protection for \$75,000 over three years. Justice spent \$50,000 over the 2012-13 and 2013-14 fiscal periods. Justice officials will continue to work with the Canadian Centre for Child Protection officials and other Yukon departments to plan for the partnership in the 2014-15 fiscal year. Thanks to everyone for their support of that program. As I said earlier, I think we've made a difference in a young person's life.

Addressing the question from the member opposite pertaining to outside legal costs, all Yukon government outside counsel contracts are established through the Legal Services branch. Most of the contracts are cost-recovered from the requesting departments.

Outside counsel costs for 2013-14, as of March 11, 2014, were distributed as follows: through the Department of

Justice, \$99,000; the Department of Community Services, \$147,000; the Department of Economic Development was \$38,000; Education was \$2,000; Energy, Mines and Resources was \$197,000; Health and Social Services was \$9,100; Highways and Public Works was \$24,000; the Public Service Commission was \$9,000; and the Workers' Compensation Health and Safety Board was \$800.

For the 2012-13 year, the costs were distributed as follows: Justice was \$161,000; Community Services was \$334,000; Economic Development was \$54,000; Education was \$151,000; Energy, Mines and Resources was \$138,000; Health and Social Services was \$8,000; Highways and Public Works was \$982,000; Public Service Commission was \$38,000; Tourism and Culture was \$2,000; Women's Directorate was \$11,000.

Carrying on to some of the other questions the member opposite had — from April 2013 to February 2014, the Whitehorse Correctional Centre had 2,450 admissions. Of those, 587 were adult females; there were 1,748 adult males; there were 76 young offenders, female, and 39 young offenders, male.

With regard to staff training at the Whitehorse Correctional Centre, First Nation cultural training is provided by a WCC elders advisory group. The advisory group provided personal delivery of traditional teaching and oral histories, and the advisory group produced their own historical documentary video for presentation to Whitehorse Correctional Centre staff. Existing Whitehorse Correctional Centre training will also be supplemented by Yukon First Nation history and cultures, a program developed by the First Nation initiative for the Northern Institute of Social Justice. Whitehorse Correctional Centre will adopt this program to supplement existing correctional officer basic training, as well as providing the training to the existing staff.

Just an aside note — the Yukon First Nation history and culture is a two-day program initially developed for delivery to the RCMP and to Health and Social Services, following recommendations made in the final report of the Task Force on Acutely Intoxicated Persons at Risk, as well as the *Sharing Common Ground* final report.

In addition to providing a wide range of basic training for new corrections officers, the Correctional Centre provides the following regular training and re-cert training to its officers. There is: case management training and programs, fetal alcohol spectrum disorder training, mental health, first aid, motivational-based interviewing skills, conflict resolution and crisis intervention, working with female offenders, first aid, CPR and automated external defibrillator, or AED, and there is also a use-of-force option as part of the national use-of-force model.

The member opposite also asked about segregation. Communities require correctional centres because some individuals present such a danger to the public that they have to be separated from society. Within any correctional centre, there are individuals who present such a risk to others that they too have to be confined separately from the rest of the population. It really is an unfortunate situation, but it is

absolutely necessary. It is a necessary aspect of dealing with the inmate population.

The Correctional Centre has a responsibility for keeping the public safe, as per the orders of the courts, for keeping every inmate under their care safe, as per the Yukon *Corrections Act*, and a responsibility to keep safe the men and women who devote their time, day in and day out, to try to help these inmates. Unfortunately, the only way to achieve these objectives is to separately confine inmates who present a risk to themselves and to others.

The vast majority of inmates — approximately 93.3 percent — have never been separately confined for any reason. There were 887 admissions to the Whitehorse Correctional Centre during 2013. As I responded previously, 60 individuals were separately confined at the Whitehorse Correctional Centre during the 2013 calendar year. To put that into proper context, that equates to about 6.7 percent of admitted inmates. The majority of inmates are only placed in separate confinement for shorter periods of time — up to 72 hours.

To reiterate and to provide the context for the statistics provided previously, 10 individuals — or one percent — were separately confined for medical observation, 0.3 percent of individuals were placed under separate confinement voluntarily, and five percent of individuals were separately confined because of their conduct. Case managers work closely with separately confined inmates in an effort to return them to regular living units at the earliest opportunity. Separately confined inmates are seen daily by the nurses and manager of Correctional Services. They are also monitored closely and regularly by staff.

It's very unfortunate that inmates with mental health problems occasionally need to be separately confined. If they can manage in the unit, the staff make every effort to keep them on the unit. However, when an inmate is delusional or refusing to take his or her medication — and we cannot force an inmate to take medication — or is at risk to harm himself or herself, or is violent, there is little choice but to keep that person away from the rest of the population. We also have a responsibility to keep them safe, as well as our staff. When this occurs, the Whitehorse Correctional Centre staff work closely with the physician, the psychiatrist and psychologist on contract to ensure the very best medical care is offered to these clients.

There are very strict conditions spelled out in the *Corrections Act* under sections 20, 21 to 23, 28 and 33 for the use of separate confinement. The legislation was written to ensure that the rights of inmates subject to this restriction are closely adhered to. Separate confinement is used as a last resort for managing behaviour at the Correctional Centre, and all separate confinement placements are reviewed by a manager.

The reasons for separate confinement are given to an inmate in writing within 24 hours of their placement. The inmate has the right to contest this placement to the manager if they believe the placement is inappropriate, their circumstances have changed or that an alternate placement

should be considered. The inmate has access to the Investigations and Standards Office, an independent body established to investigate inmate complaints.

The *Corrections Act* also established a system of independent adjudication to ensure that the rights of inmates are upheld during the disciplinary process. Inmates are only placed on separate confinement in a non-disciplinary situation if there are no other options available to ensure the safety and the security of the inmate, other inmates or Correctional Centre staff. Pursuant to the *Corrections Act*, separate confinement can be used for one or more of the following reasons: to protect staff and other inmates from a situational or chronic violence; to protect the inmate from others; to isolate inmates with significant physical or mental health problems that cannot be accommodated in other areas; to protect the inmate from self-harm; to isolate an inmate who is believed to be concealing drugs or other dangerous contraband; to isolate an inmate for the purpose of having his or her medical condition assessed under the terms of the *Mental Health Act*; the inmates may be segregated pending or as a disposition of a disciplinary hearing; and inmates may be placed in segregation for disciplinary purposes that are heard before independent adjudicators as per section 26(1) of the *Corrections Act*.

I should also say, in concluding and pertaining to segregation, that this government has no intention of moving away from this practice in our correctional facility.

Looking at the Court Watch program for the member opposite, it provides oversight to address gender equality in court. Trained observers attend local court proceedings and document cases of spousal assault and sexualized assault. It finds opportunities to give a more effective voice for victims in the criminal justice system and it supports improvements for services and supports for victims. The Yukon Status of Women Council runs a Court Watch program with funding from the crime prevention Victim Services trust fund. The funding agreement runs from April 2013 to March 31, 2015. That program began in Whitehorse and has been expanded to Dawson City and Watson Lake. The Yukon Status of Women Council engaged FREDa — Feminist Research, Education, Development and Action Centre at Simon Fraser University to assist with the research part of their project. The majority of the funds that are budgeted for the 2014-15 fiscal year are designated for wages and honoraria for the project coordinator. Also Victim Services branch has met with the Yukon Status of Women Council and has offered to provide information about core processes and schedules to the Court Watch volunteers.

**Ms. Moorcroft:** A follow-up on some of the responses the minister has just provided — to start with, about the cost of legal fees that the minister read into the record, I wanted to ask if he could explain the \$982,000 amount for Highways and Public Works in 2012-13.

I also would like the minister to provide the total cost of the legal case related to the francophone school board and the total cost of the legal case related to the Ross River Dena



Council and the legal obligation to consult first with Yukon First Nations regarding mining activity.

**Hon. Mr. Nixon:** I want to get back to a question the member asked earlier, because I didn't have enough time to answer it, and that was her question about forecasting legal expenses. The government does not forecast outside legal costs, as they're highly variable and there is a significant annual variability. So the outside counsel cost in 2012-13 was nearly \$1 million less than the previous year. Having said that, as far as a breakdown on each of the different departments on legal costs, I would ask that you ask the ministers responsible for those departments.

**Ms. Moorcroft:** Could the minister just confirm for me, then, that the question related to the francophone school board legal costs would be with the Department of Education and the Ross River Dena Council would be in Energy, Mines and Resources? Is that correct?

**Hon. Mr. Nixon:** That's correct.

**Ms. Moorcroft:** When the minister was speaking about the involvement of the Whitehorse Correctional Centre elders advisory group with staff training, he indicated they had prepared a video that covered a historical document.

I would like to ask the minister if he could provide a copy of that for Opposition members. I also wanted to ask him whether the training that he spoke to that has been developed by the Northern Institute of Social Justice on Yukon First Nations and Culture took a team-teaching approach. Do they hire First Nation instructors and presenters and have elders as advisors who participate in that training?

**Hon. Mr. Nixon:** As per the training video developed by the First Nations I can't commit, but I can look into seeing if there are copies available for the Opposition. With regard to the training at the Northern Institute of Social Justice — when the Minister of Education is on her feet I would recommend that you speak to her about the specific program details there.

**Ms. Moorcroft:** Turning to the next question that I don't recall having a complete answer on — the fetal alcohol spectrum disorder prevalence study and looking into mental health and substance abuse problems among the population at Whitehorse Correctional Centre — is the minister able to provide a copy of the research methodology and other information related to this prevalence study and can he tell us when they anticipate starting data collection?

**Hon. Mr. Nixon:** As the member opposite has already brought to the floor of the Legislature, back earlier in April, I did commit that there would be an announcement coming forward with respect to the FASD prevalence study. That announcement is coming soon but, as the member opposite will be well aware, there are a number of proponents that are involved in this so there's still some work being done prior to any announcement. I'm not going to speak to the details; that'll come out when the announcement comes out.

**Ms. Moorcroft:** Perhaps the minister would be willing to commit to this: When he makes his great announcement soon — and soon from April 1 is that it extends beyond April 29, obviously — would he also provide me a copy of the

research methodology for the report and the other information I've been asking for in this House for some months now?

**Hon. Mr. Nixon:** I can certainly look into that for the member opposite, but I know when the announcement is made, there will be information provided publicly on the website.

**Ms. Moorcroft:** Returning to another area where I haven't had a complete response from the minister yet — I had asked about staffing at Whitehorse Correctional Centre. The minister had indicated they did not hire one case manager. I wanted to ask the minister: What is the caseload of a case manager? How often do they meet with the inmates whose cases they manage? Would that be once a week, twice a week or once a month? Could the minister indicate generally what the workload is for a case worker and how often they meet with inmates?

**Hon. Mr. Nixon:** As I am looking at my notes here, I just noticed that I have overlooked a question that the member opposite asked earlier, so I just want to bring that to light now.

The member opposite was asking about re-contact data and that is something that we are moving forward to. That is part of the whole JEIN process within the courts. When JEIN is connected to the Whitehorse Correctional Centre and probations and courts, then we can start collecting that data on a more efficient basis.

As for staffing at the Whitehorse Correctional Centre, there is a sufficient staff complement to run the centre safely. The Whitehorse Correctional Centre has a total of 78 permanent full-time equivalent positions and employs 22 auxiliary-on-call correctional officers, plus eight reinforcement workers. In addition, the Correctional Centre has 15 casual correctional officers.

In the past fiscal year, the Correctional Centre has undertaken two external recruitment initiatives, hired 14 auxiliary-on-call correctional officers and 20 casual correctional officers in the past year.

In the past fiscal year, the Whitehorse Correctional Centre has also hired a superintendent. I would like to officially welcome him to the team. He is a tremendous fellow and he is doing some great work up there. We have also hired a manager of health and services — again, some great work being done there — and a manager of correctional services, casual cooks, two registered nurses, a licensed practical nurse and a reintegration worker.

I have to tip my hat to all of the staff working at the Correctional Centre. It's not an easy job, and they do a tremendous job, day in and day out, making sure that the facility runs and runs safely for everyone who is up there.

In this past fiscal year, the Whitehorse Correctional Centre has experienced turnover issues that are really no different from those experienced by other correctional facilities. Working in this facility requires shift work, which can be very challenging, especially for families. Because it's a 24/7 operation, it requires a pool of auxiliary-on-call employees to cover things like vacations, illnesses, planned and unplanned vacancies. The men and women at the

Whitehorse Correctional Centre work with some of the most troubled people in our society and face challenges in their everyday jobs that are difficult for us to appreciate. People leave the field for a variety of personal reasons. Those who stay and make corrections their career of choice are dedicated, hard-working individuals who demonstrate a great deal of understanding for the clients and resilience to the demands of this job. I'm very proud of the Corrections staff at Whitehorse Correctional Centre and their dedication to the inmates they work with and for making Yukon a safer place to live.

In November 2012, Corrections partnered with First Nation Training Corps through the Public Service Commission to increase the number of Yukon First Nation officers in the Correctional Centre. Five new correctional officers from the First Nation training program are currently working at the Correctional Centre, and 12 percent of the employees at Whitehorse Correctional Centre have self-reported that they are of First Nation ancestry.

Getting back to the justice enterprise information network, or JEIN, which I was talking about when we were talking about re-contact — this is an information network that is being phased in to replace the existing software system, which was the court registry information system, or CRIS, which is an older mainframe application in operation since the 1980s. The outdated court registry information system suffers from insufficient capacity to adapt to changing business requirements. It's limited in ability to produce statistical information and there is diminishing supply of technical support, which impacts business continuity planning.

Once fully implemented, the justice enterprise information network will substantially change business practices in courts and corrections. Among other advantages, it will allow faster production of court documents, more complete and easily produced stats, and it will eliminate the need to manually enter the information in each office, which is very clearly inefficient and can introduce errors.

The victim service module was implemented in August 2012. It currently has 20 users in three communities and approximately 1,500 files in the system. Victim Services reports that it has improved the workflow and efficiency of that office. The Sheriff's Office began using this new model in the spring of 2013, adding six additional users to the system. Business preparation activities began in July 2012 and are nearing completion.

The business process analysis includes preparing and validating workflows, remediating court document templates, creating policy and procedure manuals, evaluating the staff model and addressing change management challenges through training and team building.

This work was necessary to prepare the court registry to undertake the systems development phase of the project, which is scheduled to begin in the spring.

The capital project expenditures are as follows on the JEIN system: in 2010, there was \$429,993; in 2011-12, there was \$506,880; in 2012, there was \$373,275; in 2013, there was \$544,000 — and that's as of February 13, 2014. Justice has allocated \$407,000 for project capital expenditures in

2014-15, and the total cost for this project is estimated at just over \$3 million.

Getting back to the question from the member opposite with regard to the amount of times that a caseworker sees their clients and to their caseloads, we're asking for that information from Justice officials who are listening to the debate today. As we go, if that information comes in, I will provide it to the member opposite.

**Ms. Moorcroft:** I asked the minister a question related to the case manager's work at the Correctional Centre and he started out by reading into the record for a second time the entire briefing note about staffing, which as a matter of fact, I read this morning in preparation for this afternoon's debate so that I would be familiar with what we had already dealt with. I do want to go back, though, to the unanswered question that I have for the minister. In relation to the case managers, what is the caseload of a case manager? How often do they meet with the people whose cases they're responsible for managing? Are those meetings held between case managers and inmates throughout incarceration or strictly near the end of a stay?

**Hon. Mr. Nixon:** If the member opposite had been listening during the last part of my response, I said — and I'll read this again verbatim: With regard to the amount of the times that a caseworker sees their clients and their caseloads, we are asking for that information from the Justice officials listening to debate today. As that information comes in, I will provide it to the members opposite.

**Ms. Moorcroft:** I appreciate that. Could the minister then also request the information from the staff at the department as to how many people have been held at Whitehorse Correctional Centre who were kept in remand for 30 days or more and then found not guilty? I know we had one call to our office from someone wondering whether there was anything that could be done considering that it had been a fairly lengthy period of incarceration for someone and then found not guilty — if the minister could undertake to provide the information on how many people have been kept in remand in excess of 30 days and then found not guilty.

**Hon. Mr. Nixon:** The member opposite will know that it is not the Department of Justice that places people in the Whitehorse Correctional Centre on remand for a determined amount of time. That is the courts and we don't interfere with the courts. The member opposite needs to respect that.

Having said that, the member opposite was asking about information regarding the clients and my fantastic team at the Department of Justice has sent over some information indicating that there are approximately 33 individuals that are split between two case managers. Remand inmates are assigned to correctional officers and units. Higher risk remands are with case managers. These are the three of those that are assigned. I hope that that information is sufficient for the member opposite.

**Ms. Moorcroft:** It is not necessary for the minister to put on the record allegations that I do not respect the courts or the justice system — indeed I do and indeed I also respect the

work of the public servants at the Department of Justice as well as throughout the Yukon.

The minister provided some information that I had requested related to segregation and separate confinement of persons with mental health problems. People with mental health problems need help. Being held in separate confinement is not helping them. What they need is mental health programming and services. The minister has said he's not prepared to review that, but I do want to close with putting on the record again that housing inmates who have mental health issues in separate confinement is destructive and it's inappropriate and the practice should cease.

The minister also stated that people were held in separate confinement for only as long as necessary and for short periods of time, but the minister and I have been in correspondence about some instances where that amount of time in separate confinement has exceeded 100 days. We've also been contacted by people who have had disciplinary sanctions and have had a separate confinement of 15 days or more imposed.

When the minister speaks about the rights of inmates being upheld during the disciplinary process, I would like to ask him to confirm that that does include the right of legal representation for an inmate at a disciplinary hearing.

**Hon. Mr. Nixon:** Getting back to the first point of the comments from the member opposite with regard to mental health, in October of 2009, the federal, provincial and territorial deputy ministers responsible for justice and public safety agreed that individuals with mental health issues involved in the justice system were a priority. The mental health strategy is a culmination of several years of work examining this very issue, undertaken by the Mental Health Commission of Canada, the Canadian Association of Chiefs of Police, heads of Corrections and other senior officials.

The strategy makes recommendations under five thematic areas: collaboration and integration between the criminal justice system and health and social service resources; training and information sharing to provide front-line workers with relevant information, available resources and to facilitate intra-agency collaboration; research and evaluation on emerging best practices in the field, which would include mental health courts; diversion methods to keep people with mental illnesses out of the system, where appropriate; and strategic investment and allocation in community resources.

This is a side-note and for the Minister of Health and Social Services, Mental Health Week is May 5 through the 11.

The next step for this initiative is the development of an action plan to set out the way forward. Yukon will be involved with the development of the action plan through the federal/provincial/territorial heads of Corrections. This action plan is targeted for the completion and approval of the deputy ministers responsible in the coming year.

The strategy is broad reaching and will likely result in a multi-year action plan. The Department of Justice has a psychologist on contract who undertakes screening, assessment and referrals for treatment for inmates with mental

health problems. A psychiatrist is also on contract to provide medication management for inmates who require that form of treatment. One-to-one counselling is also available for clients.

The Whitehorse Correctional Centre physician and case management staff work closely with community resources, with Mental Health Services and also with the Yukon Review Board to secure services and continuity of care to mentally ill clients.

Again, I've said it before and I'll say it again: I extend my appreciation to the Minister of Health and Social Services and his department for their assistance with this.

Similarly, the Community Wellness Court and Justice Wellness Centre work with a variety of service providers to provide integrated case management for offenders with mental health problems under supervision in the community. All Corrections branch staff are provided with training with respect to working with individuals who have mental illnesses. Recently, the Whitehorse Correctional Centre case managers and three probation officers completed training on FASD collaborative case management.

There isn't in fact a right to a lawyer at a disciplinary hearing. However, if an inmate wishes to have their lawyer present for a hearing, we can certainly accommodate this within the department.

**Mr. Silver:** I just have a couple of questions following up on the Law Society, starting with the Law Society of Yukon Discipline Committee. There are supposed to be three members of this committee appointed by the government and currently there are zero. How is this committee supposed to function without these appointees in place? They are required by law.

**Hon. Mr. Nixon:** I thank the member opposite for the question. In fact, I am taking applications right now. There was a call-out for applications, and I hope that we will see that board with full membership in the coming months.

**Mr. Silver:** I was wondering how long these seats have been empty. What are the duties of these public representatives on the discipline committee and executive?

I was also wondering if the appointees were provided with any descriptions or handbooks to fulfill their duties.

**Hon. Mr. Nixon:** Thanks to the member opposite for the question. I don't have the information as to when the last person resigned and when the board became fully vacant, but it was brought to my attention not long ago and it is something that we're working diligently at, to create a board with full membership.

The duties pertaining to that specific board would be outlined in the act and would be available on-line.

**Mr. Silver:** The last question is: Does the minister provide the appointees with any description or handbook to fulfill their duties and also, if the member opposite can get back to us as to the timelines in which these seats have been vacant.

**Hon. Mr. Nixon:** Any such document that would be available to new individuals coming on to that board should be available through the Law Society, which is an independent

board. They should provide that information to those individuals.

As per the time frame for when that board will be at full complement, we do have applications. We are trying to reach individuals.

I know we have left a couple of messages with one individual and haven't heard back from him in a couple of weeks. Things like that come up, so I don't have a time frame, but we do hope in the coming months that it's at full capacity.

**Mr. Silver:** I'm sorry if I wasn't clear. I'm wondering how long they've been vacant. I know the minister doesn't have that information currently, but if he can get back to me on that, that would be great.

Also one final question on the Yukon discipline committee: Why are these appointments funnelled through the Law Society and Legal Services branch instead of through ECO?

**Hon. Mr. Nixon:** I thank the member for that question. That's run by the Law Society because it's a self-governing profession so complaints would go directly to the Law Society and not the government.

**Mr. Silver:** Thank you to the minister opposite for his answer and for the members from the department here today for their time. It's much appreciated.

With regard to the *Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act*, why is it that the Law Society of Yukon is not subject to ATIPP?

This will be my final question: How many complaints are received on an annual basis by the Law Society — maybe just going back as far as a couple of years — 2008 or so?

**Hon. Mr. Nixon:** The reason why that is not applicable is because it's not a public body. The Law Society is separate from government.

**Mr. Silver:** The other part of that question was how many complaints are received on an annual basis by the Law Society and how many since 2008?

**Hon. Mr. Nixon:** That information should be, or may be, available in the Law Society's annual general report. I don't have that at my fingertips right now.

**Chair:** Does any other member wish to speak in general debate?

We will proceed with line-by-line debate in Justice, page 15-7, Management Services.

***On Management Services***

***On Operation and Maintenance Expenditures***

*On Management Services*

*Management Services in the amount of \$4,020,000 agreed to*

***Management Services Operation and Maintenance expenditures in the amount of \$4,020,000 agreed to***

***On Capital Expenditures***

*On Office Furniture and Equipment*

*Office Furniture and Equipment in the amount of \$38,000 agreed to*

*On Information Technology Equipment and Systems*

*Information Technology Equipment and Systems in the amount of \$471,000 agreed to*

*On Building Maintenance, Renovations and Space*  
*Building Maintenance, Renovations and Space in the amount of \$1,204,000 agreed to*

***Management Services Capital Expenditures in the amount of \$1,713,000 agreed to***

***Management Services Total Expenditures in the amount of \$5,733,000 agreed to***

***On Court Services***

***On Operation and Maintenance Expenditures***

*On Court Administration*

*Court Administration in the amount of \$1,140,000 agreed to*

*On Court Operations*

**Ms. Moorcroft:** I would like to ask the minister if he could provide a breakdown for the expenditures on this line item please.

**Hon. Mr. Nixon:** There is an eight-percent increase of \$361,000 from the 2013-14 estimate. There is an overall increase of \$355,000 — a \$29,000 increase to fund a registrar, a \$52,000 increase to fund the law library succession planning, a \$23,000 increase in funds for a Watson Lake court clerk in order to match actual use in previous years, a \$104,000 increase in salaries as per the collective agreement and section M approved by the Management Board, and a \$199,000 increase in supplemental judicial pension offset by a \$52,000 decrease in long-term disabilities. There was an overall increase of \$6,000 in training for judicial territorial courts with recoveries from Canada.

*Court Operations in the amount of \$4,871,000 agreed to*

*On Sheriff*

*Sheriff in the amount of \$521,000 agreed to*

*On Maintenance Enforcement*

*Maintenance Enforcement in the amount of \$534,000 agreed to*

*On Witness Administration*

*Witness Administration in the amount of \$142,000 agreed to*

*On Yukon Review Board*

*Yukon Review Board in the amount of \$99,000 agreed to*

***Court Services Operation and Maintenance Expenditures in the amount of \$7,307,000 agreed to***

***On Capital Expenditures***

*On Court Services Furniture and Equipment*

*Court Services Furniture and Equipment in the amount of \$7,000 agreed to*

***Court Services Capital Expenditures in the amount of \$7,000 agreed to***

***Court Services Total Expenditures in the amount of \$7,314,000 agreed to***

***On Legal Services***

***On Operation and Maintenance Expenditures***

*On Assistant Deputy Minister's Office*

*Assistant Deputy Minister's Office in the amount of \$604,000 agreed to*

*On Solicitors' Group*

*Solicitors' Group in the amount of \$687,000 agreed to*

*On Natural Resources and Environmental Law Group*

**Ms. Moorcroft:** Could the minister provide a breakdown of the line item and the responsibilities for the Natural Resources and Environmental Law Group please?

**Hon. Mr. Nixon:** That breakdown is for the hiring of five lawyers and an administrative assistant.

*Natural Resources and Environmental Law Group in the amount of \$875,000 agreed to*

*On Legislative Counsel*

**Ms. Moorcroft:** I would like a breakdown for this line item as well please.

**Hon. Mr. Nixon:** Captured in that dollar amount — it would cover six drafters, including their support staff. There would be a regulation clerk and a bilingual administrative support staff.

*Legislative Counsel in the amount of \$875,000 agreed to*  
*On Litigation Group*

**Ms. Moorcroft:** Could the minister provide a breakdown for this amount please?

**Hon. Mr. Nixon:** Captured under here would be six lawyers. There would also be six support staff, including two paralegals.

*Litigation Group in the amount of \$1,111,000 agreed to*  
*On Aboriginal Law Group*

**Ms. Moorcroft:** Could I have a breakdown please?

**Hon. Mr. Nixon:** There would be one policy analyst, one support staff and three lawyers.

*Aboriginal Law Group in the amount of \$259,000 agreed to*

*On Litigation Costs/Judgements*

*Litigation Costs/Judgements in the amount of \$6,000 agreed to*

*On Outside Counsel*

**Ms. Moorcroft:** We did have quite a bit of discussion during general debate on the Department of Justice related to the cost of outside counsel. I would like the minister to explain how the department arrived at the \$74,000 estimate for outside counsel and what expenses this amount will cover?

**Hon. Mr. Nixon:** Madam Chair, the \$74,000 is not an estimate per se. That is the number that is used very year for the department because of the requirement to have an estimate within the budget.

**Ms. Moorcroft:** I would like the minister then to respond to this question. For the 2012-13 year, the actual amount is listed at \$59,000 and when we were in general debate earlier, the amount provided for the 2012-13 outside legal counsel costs was much higher than \$74,000, which is the amount that was estimated for 2013-14 and again for 2014-15.

Why did the amount change from \$59,000 to \$74,000 between 2012-13 and 2013-14, and why are the actual expenditures for outside legal counsel for last year larger than the amount in the budget book here?

**Hon. Mr. Nixon:** The number provided of \$99,000 was an estimate as of March 11, 2014. We still wait for bills to come in that would be captured after that date and then that number would be adjusted.

**Ms. Moorcroft:** That's fine. I get it. It's okay.

*Outside Counsel in the amount of \$74,000 agreed to*  
*On Community Legal Support*

**Ms. Moorcroft:** I would like the minister to inform us what the expenditures are for Community Legal Support.

**Hon. Mr. Nixon:** Under this line item, we would get the Family Law Information Centre, as well as the Legal Aid Society.

*Community Legal Support in the amount of \$2,077,000 agreed to*

*Legal Services Operation and Maintenance Expenditures in the amount of \$6,568,000 agreed to*

*Legal Services Total Expenditures in the amount of \$6,568,000 agreed to*

*On Regulatory Services*

*On Operation and Maintenance Expenditures*

*On Occupational Health and Safety*

*Occupational Health and Safety in the amount of \$330,000 agreed to*

#### **Unanimous consent re revisiting previous line item**

**Hon. Mr. Nixon:** I need to step back just a moment to correct the record with the \$2,077,000.

**Chair:** In order to return to a previous line item, we will need unanimous consent. Is there unanimous consent?

**All Hon. Members:** Agreed.

**Chair:** We have unanimous consent. We're going to go back to Community Legal Support on page 15-11, \$2,077,000.

*On Community Legal Support — revisited*

**Hon. Mr. Nixon:** Thank you, Madam Chair, and my apologies to all members of the Legislature.

Under this \$2,077,000 are captured FLIC — the Family Law Information Centre, Legal Aid Society, YPLEA and the Aboriginal Courtworkers program.

**Ms. Moorcroft:** I would like to thank the minister for correcting the record. I would like to request unanimous consent to return to the previous line item, Outside Counsel, for a quick question of clarification for the member as well.

**Chair:** Prior to discussing that, we need to finish off the line that we're on.

*Community Legal Support in the amount of \$2,077,000 agreed to*

#### **Unanimous consent re revisiting previous line item**

**Chair:** In order to go back to the line item, Outside Counsel, we'll need unanimous consent.

**All Hon. Members:** Agreed.

**Chair:** Unanimous consent has been granted.

*On Outside Counsel — revisited*

**Ms. Moorcroft:** When the minister was responding to questions earlier, he provided the numbers for the Department of Justice outside counsel legal costs for previous years. He has indicated that the budget book for 2013-14 says \$74,000 because the amount of \$99,000 wasn't known at the time.

However, looking at the 2012-13 actual, it shows as \$59,000. I'm not sure if I misheard the minister, but for the 2012-13 year, I had written down when he was reading those

figures out that the Department of Justice had a \$161,000 expenditure for outside counsel in 2012-13.

Could the minister let me know what the amounts were?

**Hon. Mr. Nixon:** I thank the member opposite for the question. I'm just going to send off a note to the department officials who are listening and we will try to get that information back before we finish up debate today.

*Outside Counsel in the amount of \$74,000 agreed to*

**Chair:** We will return to page 15-12.

*On Public Guardian and Trustee*

*Public Guardian and Trustee in the amount of \$522,000 agreed to*

*On Land Titles*

**Ms. Moorcroft:** Could I get a breakdown for this line item please?

**Hon. Mr. Nixon:** The Land Titles Office has five funded positions: the registrar of Land Titles, two deputy registrars, an assistant deputy registrar and a land titles clerk. In order to carry out its functions in a timely manner, the Land Titles Office also makes use of a document examiner, two additional assistant deputy registrars and an additional land titles clerk.

The LTO is presently undergoing a modernization initiative, which includes modernization of legislation, business processes and supporting computer platform. The funding is being allocated to the Land Titles Office for a period of three years to enable it to maintain service delivery during this very important modernization. That is an increase of \$200,000.

*Land Titles in the amount of \$762,000 agreed to*

*On Yukon Utilities Board*

**Ms. Moorcroft:** I would like a breakdown for this line item too please.

**Hon. Mr. Nixon:** There is no change from the 2012-13 estimate. In previous years, there was a 15-percent decrease of \$45,000 from the 2013-14 forecast, so a \$250,000 to \$300,000 increase.

**Ms. Moorcroft:** Could the minister tell the House how much of that amount for the 2013-14 year — which increased from \$255,000 to \$300,000 — and how much of the \$255,000 estimate for 2014-15 is allocated for travel for the chair of the Yukon Utilities Board?

**Hon. Mr. Nixon:** I don't have the travel budget for the chair at my fingertips but I can ask the department to see if we can find that and, if I can get that for today, I'll bring that up on the floor.

**Ms. Moorcroft:** I would appreciate that. If the information isn't available before the end of the day, it would be fine if the minister would provide a legislative return or provide the information by letter, if he would do that.

**Hon. Mr. Nixon:** I can commit to the member opposite that I will look into it.

*Yukon Utilities Board in the amount of \$255,000 agreed to*

*On Worker Advocate*

*Worker Advocate in the amount of \$500,000 agreed to*

*On Chief Coroner*

**Ms. Moorcroft:** Could I get a breakdown of expenditures for this line item?

**Hon. Mr. Nixon:** This amount would pertain to the wage of the coroner, as well as other costs associated with transporting a body after death, the utilization of pathologists and other services like that.

*Chief Coroner in the amount of \$309,000 agreed to*

**Regulatory Services Operation and Maintenance Expenditures in the amount of \$2,678,000 agreed to**

**Regulatory Services Total Expenditures in the amount of \$2,678,000 agreed to**

**Chair:** We will move on to page 15-16, Community Justice and Public Safety Division.

**On Community Justice and Public Safety Division**

**On Operation and Maintenance Expenditures**

*On Assistant Deputy Minister's Office*

*Assistant Deputy Minister's Office in the amount of \$632,000 agreed to*

*On Correctional Services*

**Ms. Moorcroft:** I would like to ask the minister to provide a breakdown please for this line item.

**Hon. Mr. Nixon:** There is a decrease of \$637,000. This decrease for Whitehorse Correctional Centre is a result of a continuous review of the staffing requirements within the new Correctional Centre and as a result of the correctional redevelopment.

Several positions were deemed not to be required at this time and funding for those positions was transferred within the department to fund positions elsewhere. In addition, strategies for delivery of some services have changed. WCC will continue to monitor staffing requirements going forward to ensure that there is adequate staffing for the correctional facility.

Madam Chair, the reductions at the Yukon Adult Resource Centre are a result of a reduction in available beds at the facility. Those beds have been made available to the Yukon Adult Resource Centre for offer to other users. The resulting savings have been transferred within the department.

**Ms. Moorcroft:** I have another question related to this line item for the minister and the supplementary information that is provided for Whitehorse Correctional Centre on page 15-20. I believe this is the appropriate line item to ask it, because it does relate to correctional services expenditures.

The minister provided information earlier in debate about the total number of admissions. I see that there is a total number of admissions for sentenced admissions and for remand admissions. My first question is to confirm that is the total number of people who were housed at the Correctional Centre throughout the year. The minister may or may not have a further breakdown that I'm going to request. If he doesn't have the information, he could let me know when the JEIN system is complete and whether this information would be available.

I'm wondering what the breakdown is of male and female and of First Nation and non-First Nation people who were admitted to the Correctional Centre.

**Hon. Mr. Nixon:** I need to note that the number is for admissions so the same person could be captured more than once within that number. For average numbers of female — there is an average of usually about five female inmates. There is an average of about 76 males and of those numbers, the First Nation component generally fluctuates between 70 to 80 percent.

**Ms. Moorcroft:** The next question that I have related to statistics is that when I look at statistics for Victim Services I see a breakdown of female and male and of First Nation and non-First Nation. There is also a page of supplementary information, which includes not only the numbers of files but the program types and case profiles and so forth.

I want to ask the minister whether he would be able to have his officials provide for the next budget year, when they're preparing the supplementary information, to include a breakdown of the program types, similar to the one that is done for Victim Services, for the Correctional Centre as well.

**Hon. Mr. Nixon:** That's exactly why we're incorporating the JEIN system within the Department of Justice. As I mentioned earlier, it moves through stages within the department. That system will provide us with more accurate information that's easier to find in a timely manner but, as I said, that system is continued, so I can't commit to the member opposite to providing detailed information and statistical information the next session, which would be the fall session. I can commit, once the JEIN system is in place within both Victim Services and Corrections, that at that time we will have more accurate and detailed statistical information.

**Ms. Moorcroft:** The final area of supplementary information I want to ask about is the number of people who return to the correctional system after they've served a sentence. The minister in debate used the word recidivism and then, later in the debate when I used the word recidivism, he used the term re-contact.

Leaving aside the discussion about the current language that is used, what I am trying to find out — if the minister could provide the information — is how many of the people who were admitted to the Correctional Centre had previously been admitted on other charges. Is the minister able to get that information and provide it?

**Hon. Mr. Nixon:** That is exactly why we are moving to this JEIN system, so that we have the resources and the system in place to accurately obtain detailed information about people that perhaps re-offend or are in for remand sentencing, or are within the courts for Victim Services. That is why we are moving toward implementing this JEIN system within the Department of Justice.

**Ms. Moorcroft:** Madam Chair, could the minister tell us whether that information is in fact kept manually at the present time — if that information is recorded by officials at the department?

**Hon. Mr. Nixon:** That information is kept within the Department of Justice, but it would be captured under individual files and again, that is why we are moving to the JEIN system so those individual files can be part of that

database and information can be drawn from different segments of the JEIN system.

*Correctional Services in the amount of \$14,289,000 agreed to*

**Chair:** Would members like to take a break?

**All Hon. Members:** Agreed.

**Chair:** Committee of the Whole will recess for 15 minutes.

*Recess*

**Chair:** Committee of the Whole will come to order and continue in line-by-line examination of the Department of Justice. We're going to continue on with Community Justice and Public Safety Division.

*On Victim Services*

**Ms. Moorcroft:** I see that the amount for Victim Services is slightly less than the forecast amount for 2013-14 and is an increase from the main estimates for 2013-14. I would like the minister to provide a breakdown please.

**Hon. Mr. Nixon:** Victim Services has amended the existing agreement with Justice Canada to secure up to \$500,000 until March 31, 2016. Of these funds, \$425,000 is being allocated to O&M costs and \$75,000 to capital. These funds are 100-percent recoverable from Canada.

Funding enables Victim Services to continue to implement the *Victims of Crime Strategy* and initiatives that enhance services for victims of crime in the following areas: application of the *Victims of Crime Act* and the victim lens on Yukon policy and program development; the support for Victims of Crime Strategy Advisory Committee; the Yukon victims of crime emergency fund; the increased capacity to respond in rural communities; and the Yukon response for child youth victims and witnesses, otherwise known as Lynx.

*Victim Services in the amount of \$1,737,000 agreed to*

*On Public Safety and Investigations*

**Ms. Moorcroft:** Could the minister provide a breakdown for this amount?

**Hon. Mr. Nixon:** That breakdown is as follows: there is \$358,000 for the Investigations and Standards office; there is \$640,000 for the SCAN unit; and the remainder of that balance would be captured in the contract that we have for policing in Yukon.

**Ms. Moorcroft:** The minister has already heard from the Official Opposition about the need for more police in Burwash Landing, and I would like to ask the minister whether he is prepared to make representations to the RCMP that it would be a needed service and is worth investing in having a RCMP detachment in the community of Burwash Landing?

**Hon. Mr. Nixon:** The Department of Justice will continue to work with the RCMP and they will continue to work with all communities throughout the territory to ensure that each of those communities has sufficient policing services. That would fall into Burwash, but I know a large number of communities across Canada — and when I speak to my colleagues in Northwest Territories or Nunavut —

Nunavut especially — they are fly-in communities, not an hour drive or a 45-minute drive up the road, but fly-in communities that have no policing services. I have confidence in the RCMP that they are able to respond to those policing needs. The RCMP has not brought that forward as a concern of theirs. They feel that they are able to keep on top of the concerns of that community with the distance.

I know in the summer months we have a dedicated officer for that area, a reservist. That is funded 100 percent through the Department of Justice. Like I said when I started speaking, we will continue to work with the RCMP and all communities throughout the territory to ensure that the policing needs are met with the RCMP.

**Ms. Moorcroft:** The minister has indicated that he has not heard from the RCMP that they see a need for a detachment in Burwash Landing. Certainly the residents of the community of Burwash Landing and the leadership have indicated that there is such a need.

Have they been in conversations with the minister and with the commanding officer of the RCMP? Why is the minister seemingly reluctant to support the needs identified by the community members in Burwash Landing?

**Hon. Mr. Nixon:** As I said earlier, the Department of Justice will continue to work with all communities throughout the territory. We will continue to work with the RCMP to ensure that policing needs are met around the territory. This is something that all parties take very, very seriously. At this time, we are not committing to a detachment in Burwash Landing and I have not personally heard from anyone in that community nor, I believe, has the Department of Justice to our knowledge. The only information that I have received, or heard of, regarding policing in Burwash is from the member opposite last year and then in the recent newspaper article.

*Public Safety and Investigations in the amount of \$25,412,000 agreed to*

*Community Justice and Public Safety Division Operation and Maintenance Expenditures in the amount of \$42,070,000 agreed to*

**Chair:** Now to page 15-17.

*On Capital Expenditures*

*On Correctional Facilities Renovations*

**Ms. Moorcroft:** Again, I would like to thank the officials for the briefing and the information they provided there. I understand that the \$40,000 for correctional facilities renovations is to address emergency repairs at Whitehorse Correctional Centre to ensure continued health and safety at the facility. That seems like a rather large sum of money for a brand-new facility when in fact there is still construction underway with the arrest processing unit. Could the minister indicate what kinds of emergency repairs are needed in this line item?

**Hon. Mr. Nixon:** Madam Chair, I can give you one example. One individual within the correctional facility caused over \$30,000 in damage. Those are the kinds of repairs that we need to address and we need to address in a very timely manner.

**Ms. Moorcroft:** The next question related to renovations is to ask the minister whether the pellet stove is working yet at the Correctional Centre and whether they have resolved all of the issues to do with the lack of adequate heating at the facility.

**Hon. Mr. Nixon:** The pellet system seems to be working very well. The heating system throughout the correctional unit seems to be working fairly well. We continue to work with the Department of Highways and Public Works if there are slight issues from time to time, but overall we are pleased with the system there.

*Correctional Facilities Renovations in the amount of \$40,000 agreed to*

*On RCMP Detachment*

**Ms. Moorcroft:** I would like the minister to provide a breakdown of this expenditure and the rationale for that. I understand it is for planning to design a three-person RCMP detachment in the Town of Faro to replace the existing detachment, and I would like to ask the minister for the reasons the government is bringing forward this expenditure and if they have any estimate for the total capital costs of a replacement RCMP detachment in Faro.

**Hon. Mr. Nixon:** The member opposite is correct. The \$318,000 will be allocated for the planning and design phase of the detachment, which is 30-percent cost-recoverable from Canada.

As we have not yet come to a design on the structure, there is no way we could estimate the cost of the design that we don't have yet.

*RCMP Detachment in the amount of \$318,000 agreed to*

*On Old Corrections Centre Demolition*

**Ms. Moorcroft:** This is an expenditure for the demolition of the old Correctional Centre, and I'm sure it will be good to see that facility gone. I have previously asked the minister — and other members of the Official Opposition caucus have asked the minister — about the demolition of the fencing surrounding the Takhini Haven group home. The Takhini Haven group home is within the former large compound that housed the old Whitehorse Correctional Centre. It is a group home for persons who may be there for the Mental Health Review Board. It's surrounded by a fence with barbed wire, and that's really not appropriate for residents of a group home. The minister had indicated that he had taken down all the fencing that the Takhini group home administration had asked to be taken down, but I don't believe that that's the case. It is my understanding that the Takhini Haven group home and those involved with its management would like to see that fencing gone and would like to have an area outside the Takhini group home where they can have outdoor activities where they won't be surrounded by barbed-wire fencing and several layers of fencing.

Can the minister tell the House if he is going to ensure that the fencing surrounding the Takhini Haven group home is taken down?

**Hon. Mr. Nixon:** I need to bring to light two items. One is that the entire area up there is designated for corrections, and two is that there are individuals staying in the



house off-site from the correctional facility who fall under the review board. They would be review board clients residing there. Until we follow through with the demolition of the old Whitehorse Correctional Centre and determine how to move forward with the property up there, there are no decisions being made at this time to remove any fence.

**Ms. Moorcroft:** The minister said that the entire site is designated as a correctional facility. Does the minister contemplate that they may use the building that is currently the Takhini Haven group home for correctional purposes?

The review board clients are not criminals, so is the minister anticipating that the facility will be used for correctional purposes again? Is he willing to take down the fence if it is not?

**Hon. Mr. Nixon:** This is really an ongoing conversation that we have with the Department of Health and Social Services. I thank the Minister of Health and Social Services for his work on this as well and for his involvement with the review board. There are review board clients staying there right now. The fence does not go all the way around that building. There is a clear entry path and, at this time, we don't see it as a huge concern. A decision can be made down the road as to whether that property will continue to fall under the use of review board clients, whether it will be used for the correctional facility or whether it won't be used at all. Those are continuing conversations that we have with the Department of Health and Social Services. We can look at some decision-making and future planning once the old correctional facility has been removed.

**Ms. White:** Just to keep on the point of the fence — right now, the side facing the parking lot has no fence. The inner perimeter fence has been taken down but the very high fence is still around the corner of the building, and it goes toward the back. If we're talking about how it's still viewed as correctional property, how would that fence be beneficial at this point, as opposed to removing it so that the viewscape out of the group home does not have the fencing on two sides of the building?

**Hon. Mr. Nixon:** This really isn't as easy as removing a fence. The fence is at the correctional facility because that property is designated for corrections. There's a tremendous amount of work and concrete that would hold those fences into the ground, so as far as the viewscales and things like that, we're working on it.

As far as removing the old correctional facility — for now, the discussions will continue with the Department of Health and Social Services. Perhaps when the Minister of Health and Social Services is up on debate, he can speak more to that. As of right now, the only concerns I'm hearing about the fence are from the members opposite. Even having said that, I'm not in a position to be removing fences until the old correctional facility is removed and we determine what the future use of that area will be.

**Ms. White:** As it stands right now, there is actually a fence that separates the Takhini Haven group home from the old correctional facility. In order to do the demolition and have it a safe workplace, that fence obviously is going to stay

in place. The parameter fence that has been partially taken down — in the minister's viewpoint it's acceptable that it surrounds a group home where we're not talking about inmates. We're not talking about people who are within the justice system like at the Whitehorse Correctional Centre. That's okay for the minister?

**Hon. Mr. Nixon:** Madam Chair, as I said, the discussions will continue with the Department of Health and Social Services. Until the old correctional facility is removed and we make decisions on how we move forward with that property, the fence will stay there.

*Old Corrections Centre Demolition in the amount of \$1,301,000 agreed to*

*On Operational Equipment*

*Operational Equipment in the amount of \$8,000 agreed to*

*On Video Conferencing Equipment*

*Video Conferencing Equipment in the amount of \$75,000 agreed to*

*On Prior Years' Projects*

*Prior Years' Projects in the amount of nil cleared*

**Community Justice and Public Safety Division Capital Expenditures in the amount of \$1,742,000 agreed to**

**Community Justice and Public Safety Division Total Expenditures in the amount of \$43,812,000 agreed to**

**On Human Rights**

**On Operation and Maintenance Expenditures**

*On Human Rights Commission*

**Ms. Moorcroft:** Thank you, Madam Chair. I have two questions for the minister for this line item. The first is: Does the minister support the work of the Human Rights Commission and foresee its future continuing for many years to come?

The second question would be to ask him for a breakdown of the line item.

**Hon. Mr. Nixon:** Over the past couple of years, the Department of Justice has been working with the commission to help stabilize its operational costs and resolve its funding issues. This government supports the important work by the Human Rights Commission and as a result, a total of \$15,000 in additional funding was approved in the 2014-15 fiscal year.

The core budget for the Yukon Human Rights Commission as of 2014-15 will be \$582,000. This is ongoing funding for 2014-15. This represents an increase of 2.75 percent from the Government of Yukon contribution to the Human Rights Commission.

*Human Rights Commission in the amount of \$582,000 agreed to*

*On Human Rights Adjudication Board*

*Human Rights Adjudication Board in the amount of \$98,000 agreed to*

**Human Rights Operation and Maintenance Expenditures in the amount of \$680,000 agreed to**

**Human Rights Total Expenditures in the amount of \$680,000 agreed to**

*On Revenues*

*Revenues cleared*

*On Government Transfers*

*Government Transfers cleared  
On Changes in Tangible Capital Assets and Amortization  
Changes in Tangible Capital Assets and Amortization  
cleared*

***Department of Justice agreed to***

**Chair:** We are going to be moving forward with general debate on Vote 2, Executive Council Office.

Committee of the Whole will recess for 15 minutes while we await officials.

*Recess*

**Chair:** Committee of the Whole will now come to order. The matter before the Committee is general debate in Vote 2, Executive Council Office, in Bill No. 14, entitled *First Appropriation Act, 2014-15*, adjourned debate, Mr. Pasloski.

**Executive Council Office — *continued***

**Hon. Mr. Pasloski:** As I recall, we were discussing the Executive Council Office, Government Audit Services branch.

The branch has recently undergone significant staffing changes and, as I had noted, now that we have successfully recruited a director of Government Audit Services, the branch is now able to proceed with examining how it carries out its activities.

I think it's important to reiterate a point that I made before that, depending on the size of the actual audit, it's not necessarily feasible to produce an audit on an annual basis. The Government Audit Services plan for 2014-15 includes completion of the audit for the Yukon government performance under the *Environment Act* for 2009 to 2012, as well as an audit of corporate information and technology management.

Staff will also to continue to provide advice to Yukon government departments on smaller projects, conduct studies on areas of higher risk and carry out follow-up work on audits completed in previous years.

That's where we were, Madam Chair. I'll be pleased to answer any questions.

**Ms. Hanson:** I would like to focus the first questions with respect to the Aboriginal Relations branch of the Executive Council Office. In the conversations that we've had in Question Period on a fairly regular basis, we have been told by the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources to refer all questions to the minister responsible for Executive Council Office with respect to the consultation aspects of the implementation of the decision of the Court of Appeal on Ross River Dena Council. I would be curious now if the minister could update the House with respect to progress being made since the Court of Appeal's decision. What concrete next steps are being taken by the minister responsible for Aboriginal Relations?

**Hon. Mr. Pasloski:** The Government of Yukon's consultation process with Ross River Dena Council regarding the Court of Appeal's declaration regarding consultation obligations related to staking in the Ross River area has now

been expended to June 30. Yukon has been actively engaged in consultation on this declaration — it will be over six months — and will continue to consult with Ross River Dena Council. We have extended the withdrawal from staking in the Ross River area for an additional two-month period ending June 30 to allow for sufficient time for consultation to be completed on this.

We have provided a significant amount of funding to support Ross River Dena Council's participation in the consultation. They will have committed to undertaking and completing those community consultations and providing the resulting maps and materials to Yukon, so we can continue on, meet those obligations and be able to move forward after the June 30 deadline we now have in front of us.

**Ms. Hanson:** Could the minister outline what the subject matter of those consultations was? Last fall we heard from the First Nation that the Government of Yukon and the government of the Ross River Dena Council had shared CanNor funding to develop a resource management plan for the Ross River Dena Council's area — that map being the same map as is attached to the appeal court decision and the Ross River Dena Council's actual submission to the court, which is a significant portion of the south-central region of Yukon. This resource management plan was funded and the First Nation was responsible for developing the traditional knowledge aspect of it. Government, with respect to Environment and Energy, Mines and Resources, was to do the balance.

Is that the subject matter of the consultation? Is it to develop a resource management plan? What outcome does the minister responsible for Aboriginal Relations expect he will see that he does not have today, on April 29? What will he have on June 29 that is different from today?

**Hon. Mr. Pasloski:** On November 1, 2013, RRDC and Yukon signed a transfer payment agreement to provide \$50,000 in funding to RRDC for its participation in the consultation. In February 2014, an additional \$50,000 was pledged and the funds were transferred to RRDC earlier this month. In late December 2013, Cabinet approved the OIC withdrawing the entire Ross River area from disposition and that, as I have just articulated, is now until the end of June.

The extension of the interim protection of that area was in recognition of some of the delays in the delivery of the second \$50,000, and there were a number of things that occurred as reasons for the delay. This money will allow them to continue to finish their community consultations and provide us with the maps and materials.

Energy, Mines and Resources has been providing funds to RRDC through a transfer payment agreement for a number of years in support of resource planning that takes into account an integrated strategy for inclusion of all social, ecological and economic values with the Ross River Dena group trap line. RRDC has tried to tie completion of the resource management planning work under these agreements to the consultation process currently underway regarding Yukon's obligations under the Yukon Court of Appeal's first declaration.

In March of this year, EMR wrote to Chief Ladue to announce that Yukon considers the resource planning project complete as of March 31, 2014. We view that resource planning work as separate from the consultation currently underway, though we are hopeful that the traditional knowledge work done by RDC under the TPAs will inform the current consultation.

While that work is very important, as I've just described, a lot of it doesn't form the basis of what the consultation was that we were trying to accomplish — and that was to identify lands where there would continue to be a staking withdrawal. As you are aware, we have protected lands on an interim basis for more than 30 years in the traditional territory of the Ross River Dena as we have for the White River First Nation and for Liard First Nation and we continue to renew those OICs for that interim protected land. That land has had numerous consultations over the years to articulate the importance of those lands, as specified.

We have gone back through this consultation to review the significance of the land that was or has continued to be protected. Part of this conversation has been about whether those continue to be lands that they want to continue to protect or whether there's a need to look at changing what those boundaries are.

This is part of the work that is ongoing. Once they have completed that work, they have indicated that they will be willing to move forward and we can have that substantive conversation. We will then be able to go out with the final draft of what will be recommended as lands protected for final consultation prior to the conclusion of the staking withdrawal on June 30, 2014.

**Ms. Hanson:** So if I am to understand the minister correctly — is the minister suggesting that the process of consultation that is being undertaken now and has been undertaken for the last few months — the end product of that is to identify lands that will receive interim protection from staking? Is the minister suggesting that those lands that will receive interim protection differ from those that are currently protected by OIC? Will they be in addition to those that are protected by orders-in-council? Will it be based on — what land quantum are we looking at with respect to interim protection for lands to be withdrawn from staking?

Currently that First Nation has — if I recall, using my memory — probably about 1,800 square miles that is under interim protection. Is the minister suggesting that is the quantum, knowing that the quantum comes from the *Umbrella Final Agreement*, and has been rejected by the Ross River Dena Council? Are we talking about quantum in this region for all the Kaska? In that case, are we looking at quantum for Liard First Nation and the Kaska Dena Council?

Could the minister clarify again what I asked at the outset — what is the outcome that he is intending to see at the end of June, before he will be satisfied, and the First Nation will be satisfied, that there is no need to extend the moratorium?

Certainly I think there is a disconnect between what the minister is presenting with respect to the ability to create new dispositions in the Ross River Dena Council's territory from

what I'm hearing him say. I would like clarification from the minister please.

**Hon. Mr. Pasloski:** What we are talking about — as you're aware, there were two declarations by the Yukon Court of Appeal. There has been extensive discussion regarding the second declaration with the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources. We are talking about the first declaration, which was that the Yukon government has a duty to consult with RRDC in determining whether mineral rights on Crown lands within lands comprising the Ross River area are to be made available to third parties under the provisions of the act. That is what in fact we have been doing, and we've been working together with Ross River to that end.

As I said a couple of times, we have now extended the withdrawal until the end of June. I will not surmise or preclude or guess what the conclusion of that will be. What we have also articulated — and have stated publicly — is that as we conclude this work with the Ross River Dena Council on the Ross River area, the willingness and the interest is to then move ahead and begin the same processes with the Liard First Nation and with the White River First Nation in terms of addressing the first declaration.

What has been said was that because we were under a court-mandated order, our priority had to be to ensure that we met the court-mandated order, at which point we would then be able to focus our efforts on working with the chief and council and the citizens of the White River First Nation and the Liard First Nation to address the first declaration with them in their traditional territories as well.

**Ms. Hanson:** The minister has not clearly responded with respect to the basis for determining what lands will be receiving interim protection after June 30, so the current status is that we have two areas being discussed. We have the quantum that was identified and the land selections that were identified under the process up to about 2003, when the Ross River Dena Council identified a number of land selections that received interim protection which has, as the minister correctly said, been extended every five years. We also have the Ross River Dena area, which comprises a vastly larger area than roughly 1,800 square miles that the First Nation retained under interim protection.

I guess what I'm looking for — is the 1,800 the starting point or are those assumed to be protected? Then we go forward with looking at new data, new information from the Ross River Dena Council — gleaned from the work that I'm presuming he's saying both the departments of Energy, Mines and Resources and Environment and the Ross River Dena Council have completed over the last two or three years as they worked on this resource management plan exercise.

**Hon. Mr. Pasloski:** What we are describing, or talking about, is what has been articulated or mandated or court ordered by the Yukon Court of Appeal, and that is the Ross River area, which is a defined area within the Ross River traditional territory. So this isn't the Ross River traditional territory; this is a clearly defined area that has been called the Ross River area for the purpose of the court case, for the purpose of the declarations and for the purpose of what we

have been talking about with the First Nation. What I'm talking about right now is to meet the first declaration of the Yukon Court of Appeal with regard to the Ross River area.

**Ms. Hanson:** Could the minister describe the Ross River area?

**Hon. Mr. Pasloski:** I'm sorry, I couldn't describe it. It's a fairly large area on a map, but I would be unable to describe it. I don't know whether we can probably get —

**Some Hon. Member:** (inaudible)

**Hon. Mr. Pasloski:** I was trying to see if I have the actual square kilometres of it is for a description. We can give that to the member opposite, because I can't remember where I have that number, but we're willing to find that for them.

Just before I sit down, I was reminded by a colleague that the OIC would be on-line and you can be able to articulate it there.

**Ms. Hanson:** It wasn't a vexatious question. It was simply to clarify that the minister is aware that this is land that is unceded. Unextinguished First Nation aboriginal rights and titles still exist there and that has been the basis of their duty to consult.

I'll move on because I don't have a clear idea of what the minister responsible for Aboriginal Relations' expectation is and how he will measure success at the end of June as to whether or not these consultations have been successful. That's unclear. It will be interesting, as this is a moving target as we go forward.

The minister is no doubt aware that despite the fact that the Government of Yukon has taken the position that the Ross River Dena Council applies only to those First Nations that have incomplete land claims agreements, the whole of the decision has an application with respect to all Yukon First Nations. The position that the Government of Yukon has taken — that they don't agree that new legislation with respect to *Quartz Mining Act* and *Placer Mining Act* is required because of the inconsistency of the legislation with First Nation final and self-government agreements.

Given that there has been a history over the last number of months, particularly since the decision by the government to bifurcate its interactions with Yukon First Nations, and given the Ross River Dena decision, is the minister contemplating meeting with Yukon First Nation leadership to resolve these outstanding issues? Is there a Yukon Forum planned? Will the minister be meeting with Yukon leadership with respect to those issues that Yukon First Nation leadership have repeatedly been raising with this minister in his role as Premier as well as his role as minister responsible for Aboriginal Relations?

**Hon. Mr. Pasloski:** As I have said in this House many times, we do and we will continue to work with First Nations on many different issues. Many times these negotiations, or these discussions, are on a bilateral basis — government to government. Sometimes there is opportunity for issues that are far-reaching that affect many First Nations, and I am pleased that a year ago we came up with a process for informal discussions among leadership. There were three last year. One was cancelled by the First Nations that was scheduled in

February. However, we did meet again only recently — I forget what the date was, but it was this month that we did meet for another informal meeting. It is another opportunity to have some good, frank discussion about issues that affect all of us.

Everybody signed an agreement to participate in those informal meetings because what we are attempting to do is work together — not to try to create political gain out of such meetings.

This is about getting together; that is why the agreement includes such things as not talking to the media about it before or after the meetings. This is truly about an opportunity for a free and frank discussion by leadership hopefully to have a better understanding about issues as they come forward so that everyone has a better understanding of where each other is. So we will continue to do that.

The member opposite was implying discussions regarding the second declaration around class 1 notification. This is an important issue, not only for the First Nations, but also for industry and for this government as well. We will continue to work together. A lot of times these meetings can be on an informal basis, either face-to-face or collectively as a group, or just by picking up the phone and talking to one another.

I am looking forward to another meeting with the First Nation leadership. At this point, we don't have a formal date set for the next Yukon Forum. We have had a discussion and in fact debated a motion in this House on the Yukon Forum. I know officials are now working toward establishing the dates for the next Yukon Forum. That doesn't mean that work stops; we continue to work with First Nations on this issue and many other issues as we continue to move forward.

I could start to talk about some of the things that have been highlighted recently, but I think that would be redundant and preclude the opportunity for the member opposite to ask another question.

**Ms. Hanson:** I'll move on from there. We won't get an answer today on that.

Would the minister update the House with respect to the — he mentioned in the Budget Address amendments that are pending with respect to YESAA. I would appreciate it if the minister could identify or tell us — he had indicated — and the way I understood him to speak then and subsequently — was that these amendments would be introduced in Parliament sometime in April. I'm looking to him to update the Legislative Assembly as to the timing for the introduction of these amendments to the *Yukon Environmental and Socio-economic Assessment Act* and if he could also identify what, if any, consequential amendments to other federal or territory legislation is being proposed at the same time.

**Hon. Mr. Pasloski:** We have been working on potential modifications, both from the legislative and regulatory perspectives, on YESAA for quite some time now. As you are aware, the Government of Canada, Yukon First Nations and the Yukon government did go through a five-year review of YESAA and made recommendations on a significant number of changes. A lot of those changes were administrative in

context, but there were some substantial agreements that were made at that time.

Subsequent to that, there has been willingness or an interest by Canada to look at the process. As we know, this legislation is federal legislation that came into effect more than a decade ago. Since that time, we've had now more than a decade to look at YESAA and its regulations through that time, combining that with the work that Canada has seen in other jurisdictions and the changes they've made to the federal legislation, so there has been an interest put forward to ask for suggested recommended amendments to the legislation and to the regulations.

We could go through all the timelines. Suffice it for me to say that we have put together a number of recommendations to the federal government as such, and so have Yukon First Nations. The culmination of that was that, earlier this year, the federal government did provide the stakeholders with some proposed legislative amendments. We were given eight weeks to review them and to provide our comments back to the federal government. That period of time has just recently ended and we have provided those comments based on the initial draft legislation they put forward. The federal government will now consider all the comments that have been made to them from the Yukon government, Yukon First Nations and CYFN.

They're also asking for comments, for example, from YESAB — the Yukon Environmental and Socio-economic Assessment Board. They will review all of those comments and then they will, I believe, be able to move forward with some legislative amendments. The commitment that we have heard is that they're hoping to do that in the spring session. However, Madam Chair, as you're aware, there are a lot of things that the government cannot control. We're not absolutely certain it will move forward at that time. We're hopeful and optimistic that it will.

The other component of this would be to ensure that this summer we would also begin a process to review the YESAA regulations, as we have extrapolated on numerous occasions. There were some areas that the government viewed as a priority for legislative and regulatory changes with regard to such things as thresholds, adequacy, timelines and consistency between the various district offices as well. That is a process that we have been working with. I know that all parties were encouraged by Canada to provide their input. That will give the opportunity for Canada to have a robust multi-party perspective when they are considering the changes that they hope to put forward here during their spring session.

**Ms. Hanson:** The second part of that question had to do with consequential amendments to other legislation, and the minister did not address that.

I will move on and ask him to answer that in response to the second area that I was going to move to. Another area that is covered off in Executive Council Office is the boards and committees. I note, when I look at the website for boards and committees, there is a boards and committees directory that is dated 2006 and it says it is a draft directory. It says the decision to provide the draft document was made to give you

— the public — the most accurate and up-to-date information possible.

I am wondering whether the minister could update this Legislative Assembly, as 2006 is a few years back. Is it their intention to update this with something that could actually be the most accurate and up-to-date information possible? That is one part of the question.

The second is that this listing of boards and committees — this directory — lists approximately 90-plus boards and committees that we invite and encourage — it is part of a whole democratic process to encourage citizens to actively engage in processes that either make recommendations to government or actually make decisions. Some of them are decision bodies. Also, though the terms and conditions — the mandates — of some of these boards and committees are dated. In some cases, we actually have situations where the same individuals have been on the very same boards since — oh, I don't know — 1988.

Has the minister directed that there would be a review of the mandates? Not of the *Umbrella Final Agreement* or First Nation final agreement-mandated boards or committees, because those are clearly articulated in the process, where appointment is clearly set out in those documents.

Sometimes the functions of a committee that may have been meaningful in 1988, for example, may not be so meaningful in 2014. We certainly see that as we renew and revive our legislation. If they are full, this represents civic engagement of over 500 people. If they're meaningful, that's great. If they're not meaningful and if there are some committees to which, in fact, the ministers responsible have said, "We don't really want to hear from you", maybe we don't need those committees any more.

I'm interested in — under what process of evergreening is the boards and committees directory undertaken? When was the last time it was reviewed? Have the mandates of these boards and committees exclusive of those mandated by the UFA and final agreement been reviewed? If not, when does the minister intend to do so? That's the broad area of boards and committees.

The first question had to do with consequential amendments to other federal legislation as a result of changes that are being brought forward by the federal government with respect to YESAA.

**Hon. Mr. Pasloski:** I guess, in my error or omission, I did not answer the second part of the last question. The answer to that question is that there are no other pieces of legislation that will be affected by the proposed changes to YESAA.

My understanding is it will stand alone and there will be no other implications at this point, as far as I'm aware. It will not be tied to any other piece of Yukon legislation. We're looking forward to that occurring. As I mentioned, the federal government is hoping to be able to table that legislation at the end of their spring session, which concludes in the latter part of June.

Within the policy unit of the Executive Council Office, we do have one board and committee analyst who is currently

working on an on-line directory. This is to move all that information to an on-line format, which will be able to provide people with really accurate and up-to-date information on an ongoing basis through the on-line directory. I would use this opportunity to continue to encourage interested Yukon citizens to be engaged and to become interested in being a valuable source and being one of those individuals who puts their name forward to be on one of the many boards and committees that are supported by this government.

As the member opposite articulated, some of those have come as a result of the Umbrella Final Agreement. Again, I think it's very important to also note that ultimately decisions must always remain with elected officials. Boards and committees are people who are unelected and unaccountable. They are appointed to those positions, so we certainly appreciate the good work that occurs through these boards and committees. But ultimately, because the accountability lies with the elected officials, the final decisions on any of the good work that is being done needs to rest in most cases with the appropriate minister.

We do encourage people — I think of the renewable resources councils, the Fish and Wildlife Management Board — there are many, many great boards and committees out there, and if people are interested, we encourage them to provide their resumé and look forward to looking at chances to become involved. I know right now on the website you can always look at who constitutes the members of each of these boards and committees. You can see when their appointment is due and when there are opportunities for getting your name put forward for a board or committee. We certainly appreciate the hard work and efforts that are put forward on behalf of Yukoners on all these boards.

Seeing the time, Madam Chair, I move that you report progress.

**Chair:** It has been moved by Mr. Pasloski that the Chair report progress.

*Motion agreed to*

**Hon. Mr. Cathers:** I move that the Speaker do now resume the Chair.

**Chair:** It has been moved by Mr. Cathers that the Speaker do now resume the Chair.

*Motion agreed to*

*Speaker resumes the Chair*

**Speaker:** I will now call the House to order.

May the House have a report from the Chair of Committee of the Whole?

### **Chair's report**

**Ms. McLeod:** Mr. Speaker, Committee of the Whole has considered Bill No. 14, entitled *First Appropriation Act 2014-15*, and directed me to report progress.

**Speaker:** You have heard the report from the Chair of Committee of the Whole. Are you agreed?

**Some Hon. Members:** Agreed.

**Speaker:** I declare the report carried.

**Speaker:** The hour being 5:30 p.m., this House now stands adjourned until 1:00 p.m. tomorrow.

*The House adjourned at 5:30 p.m.*

### **The following Sessional Papers were tabled April 29, 2014:**

33-1-115

*Report of the Chief Electoral Officer of Yukon on Political Contributions - 2013* (Speaker Laxton)

33-1-116

*Report on Subsistence, Travel & Accommodations of Members of the Yukon Legislative Assembly 2013-2014* (dated April, 2014) (Speaker Laxton)

### **Written notice was given of the following motion on April 29, 2014:**

Motion No. 662

Re: Extension of the Select Committee Regarding the Risks and Benefits of Hydraulic Fracturing's reporting deadline (Cathers)